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Islamic Affairs

Further on Jerusalem Committee Meeting

'Arafat, Others Arrive in Rabat

LD1510133790 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 15 Oct 90

[Excerpts] Yasir 'Arafat, the president of the state of Palestine, arrived in Morocco this morning to take part in the meeting of the Jerusalem Committee which will take place in Rabat today under the request of His Majesty King Hasan II, the committee's chairman, following the hideous massacre perpetrated by Zionist occupation forces at the holy temple mount. [passage omitted]

A short while ago, His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the Saudi foreign minister, arrived at Rabat-Sale to represent his country at the Jerusalem Committee meeting. He made the following statement:

[Begin Sa'ud al-Faysal recording] The meeting of this committee, chaired by His Majesty King Hassan II, takes place under circumstances that reactivate the responsibility of the Islamic nation to back the Palestinian people in general, and stand by the cause of the Palestinian people. It is Jerusalem that forms the nucleus of this [Arab-Israeli] conflict. God willing, we hope the resolutions that will be adopted by this committee will restore the firmness and efficacity of the Islamic position to confront the renewed Israeli aggression against the holy al-Quds Mosque. [end recording] [passage omitted]

The foreign ministers of Iraq, Jordan, Syria, Mauritania, Bangladesh, and Niger arrived in Rabat yesterday to take part in the Jerusalem Committee meeting.

Opening Address by King Hassan

LD1510202190 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 15 Oct 90

[Address by King Hassan II opening the Jerusalem Committee meeting in Rabat—live]

[Text] Thanks be to God, and prayers and peace be upon God's prophet, his family, and companions.

His Excellency Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, their excellencies the ministers and ambassadors.

My address will be brief. This is because the greater the event, the more verbosity becomes an enemy of the importance of the event. Following the call by my brother, Mr. Yasir 'Arafat, and my consultations with you, members of the Jerusalem Committee, I decided to call for a meeting at this critical, vital moment to the Islamic and Arab world. I say Islamic because Jerusalem is the third of the holy mosques and concerns every true Muslim. I say the Arab world because Jerusalem is situated in an Arab land and in an Arab homeland.

Thus, thanks be to God, we have decided that despite all that is taking place, and despite the aversion, misunderstanding, and disputes that essentially happen within the members of every family; be they political, religious, or one of kinsmanship; when conflicts intensify, and when the bugle of jihad is blown for the defense of the dignity of Muslims in an Arab land, all of us set aside our feuds and forget our sensitivities and rush to respond to the call of conscience and the call of honor.

The Jerusalem issue no longer needs clarification. Indeed today, it constitutes one of the blessings of that revered and glorified mosque. It became a historical watershed in the history of the United Nations as well as in the history of the principal Arab cause. In my opinion, the condemnation Israel has received acquires utmost importance for two reasons: First, the condemnation has been unanimous; and second, this condemnation did not come haphazardly. True, this unanimity was delayed, but for this unanimity to take place in these conditions and times that are fraught with events and changes in the East and in the West, and in ideologies and in alliances of which some are newly born while others have died; for this unanimity to come amid this world evolution and during the world's present labor pains, which it is hoped will bring forth a blessed child bringing fraternity among peoples and mankind as well as peace and prosperity for all peoples, and establishing right and doing away with evil; for this unanimity to come in these present circumstances is something that makes us overlook all analyses and makes it imperative for us to be thankful and grateful to God.

Furthermore, this unanimity of condemnation constitutes a very important precedent regarding this issue and this dossier. Hence, dear members of the Jerusalem Committee, it is our duty to act rationally and patiently, and open our minds and hearts to all rational and reasonable hope, and to march with God's blessing reliant on ourselves, and first and foremost on our brothers who are falling daily as martyrs and victims, praying—though they need no such prayer—to go to heaven and be near the prophet, God's prayers and peace be upon him. We embrace in our arms and our hearts the children of stones, those who have written one of the greatest pages and records in Arab and Islamic history.

Nothing remains for us now other than to go forth in our work and ask God Almighty to grant us success. God said in his Holy Koran: God grant us mercy from you and let us act wisely. Verily, God has said the truth: God's peace and mercy be upon you.

Address by 'Arafat

LD1510225990 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 1840 GMT 15 Oct 90

[Speech by PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat at meeting of Jerusalem Committee in Rabat—live]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted]. Your Majesty, monarch of

the Kingdom of Morocco, president of the Jerusalem Committee, and bearer of this constant Palestinian concern; brother heads of delegations of the Jerusalem Committee; brother participants: I would like to address thanks, greetings, and appreciation to His Majesty King Hassan and to his struggling brotherly people for his generous response to the call which came out from the first of the two shrines and the third holy place [Jerusalem], the path of the Prophet Muhammad, God's prayers and peace be upon him, and the cradle of Christ, peace be upon him.

Our meeting under the auspices of Your Majesty and as guests of this struggling country is a sign of the noble generosity and stance that have been adopted by Your Majesty and shared by your struggling people. Also standing by you are all your brothers, the Arab and Muslim leaders, in defense of these Islamic and Christian holy places in the land of the Prophet's spiritual flight to Heaven.

Your Majesty, what has recently happened is a premeditated crime. You will remember, Your Majesty, in our last meeting of the Jerusalem Committee, which took place here under your auspices, that we spoke about the Jewish immigration, Zionist Israeli ambitions, and the international plans which covet not only Palestine but also the land of the Arabs and the Muslims.

What has happened is, as I have said, a crime which was planned by the Israeli government, army, police, and armed settlers when they themselves previously named what they called the sons and guardians of the temple as the Temple of Solomon.

They announced some time ago, in agreement with the Israeli prime minister, their intention to lay the foundation stone at al-Haram al-Sharif [Dome of the Rock, al-'Aqsa mosque compound]. It is not, as Shamir and especially the U.S. media claimed, that they were praying. The conspiracy is that the sons of the Temple, the guardians of the so-called Temple, a week before had announced, in agreement with Shamir, to lay the foundation stone of the Temple of Solomon III. In a document that we have distributed—excuse me for taking so long, but the document will be distributed among you. It is from the magazine of the Israeli airlines, El Al, showing al-Haram al-Sharif, which houses the Dome of the Rock, the holy al-'Aqsa Mosque and al-Mahd; these three landmarks are removed and replaced with this temple, which is called the Third Temple, the Temple of Solomon.

Thus, the operation was not an ordinary one but a conspiracy against the most sacred of the Muslims' holy places in Palestine, the first of the shrines and third of the holy places. These armed gangs, including the Israeli army, were confronted by what is left of the population of Jerusalem, Muslims and Christians. At dawn on that day they went to al-Haram al-Sharif to interject themselves between these gangs which are planning to remove and demolish the holy al-'Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock, from which the Prophet Muhammad ascended to heaven, to place in its stead the Third Temple. They confronted them with their bodies, these men, women, and children.

A short time before that, Your Majesty will recall, other Jewish groups under the protection of the Israeli army and an alleged Israeli High Court injunction, occupied the Monastery of John the Baptist, also in Jerusalem. You will all recall that, to this moment, they remain in occupation of the Monastery of John the Baptist. They expelled the priests in it and assaulted the highest Christian symbol, the Roman Orthodox Patriarch.

Thus, the issue is not only one of a military operation in which 34 martyrs from the sons of Jerusalem were killed and 950 others were injured in one day, but also one whose aim is to remove the landmarks and the Islamic and Christian holy places in order to Judaize Jerusalem. It is the Jerusalem in which Sharon said today—he chose the day on which the Jerusalem Committee is meeting—that all Security Council resolutions are nothing compared to the Israeli decision that Jerusalem is the eternal capital of the state of Israel. I agree with his majesty the king that the condemnation was unanimous, but I must clearly point out the pressures that were exerted by the United States to prevent the presentation and adoption of the draft resolution that was put forward by the seven nonaligned states in the Security Council. The Malaysian delegate was the one who adopted it on his capacity as the head of the Nonaligned bloc in the Security Council. But they refused to send a Security Council commission. This, Your Majesty, is in spite of the fact that while I was in Geneva prior to the Baghdad summit conference, it was proposed to me by the U.S. delegate to send a committee and postpone the sanctions. At that time he proposed to me a committee composed of France, Canada, and Ethiopia.

To ease matters I said: Yes, I agree. I explained this event to my brothers, the Arab leaders, when we met in Baghdad. In spite of that, they used the veto! This time, they threatened to use the veto if the commission was to be sent by the Security Council. They charged the secretary-general to set up a commission, which as your Majesty knows, Israel yesterday rejected, saying that it will not grant it an entry visa.

This is the third commission to be formed by the secretary-general: the first was headed by Undersecretary General Goulding and the second by Aime, a senior official of the United Nations. The U.S. Administration put pressure on both commissions to prevent them from presenting a report to the Security Council.

And now it is the same thing. Nevertheless, we at the PLO stated what was absent in this resolution because we demanded, Your Majesty, protection for the holy places. The Security Council will have to find a method to protect the Christian and Islamic holy places. Here I point out and recall the efforts which Your Majesty are making with his holiness the pope and with the other

churches for the sake of embarking on a joint Islamic and Christian action to protect these Islamic and Christian holy places in Palestine.

This committee was not granted a visa by Israel. Sharon issued what he issued. Worse than this, he said that this committee will be like its predecessors unless we as an Arab and Islamic nation together with our friends in the world make a united move inside the Security Council. Your Majesty, this is a matter which is being entrusted to you, which you add to your other Palestinian burdens. I am placing this Palestinian burden on your shoulders and the shoulders of all my brothers—the representatives of the Arab and Islamic nation.

I say that what took place was that the U.S. Administration did not agree to including an article concerning protection of the holy places or protection for the Palestinian people. And now we are in a tight corner. Naturally, the United States sent an envoy to try to persuade Israel. All right. Why do you not allow this committee to go. It would be one of the committees to go.

But I beg you this time: We should cooperate while we are united to a man in this international organization which is the UN organization, so that we can safeguard our Islamic and Christian holy places. The issue is not only the martyrdom of 34 Palestinian martyrs and 950 wounded. This is only in Jerusalem. As for the rest of the areas, the second, the third day, and up to this moment—my brother [words indistinct] all the occupied Palestinian areas, all of them and without exception—are closed, except Bethlehem. Even Bayt Sahur and Bayt Jala—they closed them the day before yesterday. Only Bethlehem remained open. All of them are militarily closed.

Therefore, the plot to Judaize is proceeding uninterrupted, willfully and with impunity, together with another plot which is a calamity to us—namely, the Soviet emigration, about which you have some knowledge. They have celebrated until now the arrival of more than 180,000 immigrants. Up to this moment—180,000 immigrants from the Soviet Union.

We gave you an increase in resources and sons and made you the more numerous in manpower. [Koranic verse]

This is it. We gave you an increase in resources—U.S. money and U.S. weapons. And the manpower is from the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, Argentina, and other countries of the world. And regrettably, one of them is a friendly African state—Ethiopia. This one has sent to date more than 35,000 Falashas. There is a new agreement which covers the dispatch of the rest, who number about 40,000 or 45,000 Falashas.

The scheme is serious Your Majesty. These events come at a time when we as an Arab nation and also as an Islamic nation are preoccupied with a major event in the Gulf region. Through our Arab community and in cooperation with our Islamic community, and with an international umbrella, I hope from the bottom of my heart and feelings that we will search for an Arab solution that will safeguard our Arab future, our pan-Arab security, our Arab order. The Arab order is currently threatened. The Arab order, Your Majesty, is threatened.

God forbid, if war were to break out, we will not be the only losers in it as an Arab nation, as an Islamic nation. All the world will be a loser in it and there will be no winner in it. For this reason we must intensify efforts, all efforts, to arrive at a solution that will preserve the interests of all, the security of all, a solution that will safeguard rights and the gains that we had gained as an Arab nation and as an Islamic nation.

Your Majesty, I am sorry to speak for so long, but it is a cry from a heart bleeding every day in Palestine. I am saying these words from this heart bleeding in Palestine, bleeding in fear of a disaster in the Gulf. I say: God has promised us, and God's promise is true.

Despite all this, I am convinced, and I am telling you on behalf of the stone-throwing children, of our women, our men; that our bodies, flesh, and blood will be a screen and an invincible barrier. We will fall as martyrs, child after child, man after man, and woman after woman; and we will not allow them to harm these sanctitites, whether Islamic or Christian. We will not permit them to harm these sanctities. If they want to exterminate the Palestinian people, then let the Palestinian people be exterminated. This would be our fate. [passage omitted]

Victory comes from God, and there is no victor but God. I have read this in one of your palaces. Thank you, Your Majesty; thank you, gentlemen. [applause]

Final Statement Read

LD1510230290 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 1925 GMT 15 Oct 90

[Final statement adopted by the Jerusalem Committee of the Islamic Conference Organization meeting in Rabat, read by the assistant secretary-general of the Islamic Conference Organization; not further identified—live]

[Text] Thank you Your Majesty. In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The final statement and the recommendations issued by the Jerusalem Committee in its 13th session held in Rabat on 15 October 1990.

Following the dreadful massacre perpetrated by the Israeli occupation authorities, as a result of which scores of unarmed sons of the Palestinian people were martyred and hundreds injured at the holy al-Aqsa Mosque square and the surrounding area in holy Jerusalem on Monday, 8 October 1990, the Jerusalem Committee of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] held its 13th session in Rabat, capital of the Kingdom of Morocco, on 15 October 1990, in response to a generous invitation extended by His Majesty King Hassan II of the Kingdom of Morocco, president of the Jerusalem Committee, to study the serious situation resulting from that massacre, to hold consultation on how to confront Israeli crimes

and to examine ways and means of providing the necessary protection to the sons of the Palestinian people and the sacred places in holy Jerusalem.

The meeting of the committee was attended by the struggler, Yasir 'Arafat, head of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, His Excellency Hamid Algabid, secretary-general of the Islamic Conference Organization, and the delegations of the committee's member-countries.

His Majesty King Hassan II opened the work of the committee with an extensive speech. Then His Excellency Yasir 'Arafat, head of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, spoke. ICO Secretary-General Dr. Haim Algabid also addressed the committee. Following this, the committee discussed the serious situation resulting from that dreadful massacre, and recorded that by this new massacre Israel intends to persist with the execution of its colonization plans and with the destruction of al-Aqsa Mosque in implementation of its covert plan to Judaize the holy city. The committee believes that the Israeli Government would not persist with its extremist repressive and terrorist policy without the support it receives from some countries. Therefore, the UN Security Council is called upon to continue to deal with international issues on an equal basis, that is, based on international legitimacy, which conforms with the UN Charter and bolsters the credibility and effectiveness the United Nations recently gained in the era of entente and international cooperation.

While following with great concern the tragic developments in the occupied territories, including holy Jerusalem, the Jerusalem Committee:

1. Condemns Israel for the massacre it perpetrated against the unarmed Palestinian people in the sanctuary of holy Jerusalem on Monday, 8 October 1990, defying the sanctity of these places and the sentiments of over 1 billion Muslims throughout the world;

2. Condemns Israel for persisting with its racist and savage practices against the unarmed Palestinian people, and for executing its colonization policy in Jerusalem and throughout occupied Palestinian territories, including the setting up of new settlements for the Soviet Jews who are immigrating to Israel;

3. Turns with greetings and appreciation toward the struggling Palestinian people for their persistence in making sacrifices in defense of their land and everything they hold sacred, and calls on Islamic countries to increase their support for the Palestinian people's struggle and their blessed intifadah to bolster their ability to stand fast, resist the occupation, and protect Islamic sanctities;

4. Expresses its utmost appreciation to all countries that have condemned the massacre perpetrated by Israel in the holy sanctum, and also praises the holy pope's stand for condemning that massacre and denouncing the tragic unjust conditions in the city of Jerusalem, which is revered by followers of the three heavenly religions;

5. Reaffirms that Jerusalem is an inseparable part of occupied Palestinian territories, and that it is the capital of the state of Palestine. It also recalls the UN Security Council resolutions, especially resolutions 476 and 487 of 1980, which stress that the Constitution of Israel, which considers Jerusalem the unified capital of Israel, is null and void, and that all the legislative and administrative measures that have changed our aim to change the identity of the holy city of Jerusalem and its legal status are null and void and must be abolished immediately;

6. Stresses that the fourth Geneva agreement concerning the conditions of civilians in wartime, dated 12 August 1949, apply to Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967, including Jerusalem;

7. Urges the international community to support the Palestinian people in regaining their inalienable national rights, including their right to return to their homeland, and their right to self-determination and to establish their independent state on their land, with Jerusalem as its capital under the leadership of their sole legitimate representative, the PLO;

8. Strongly condemns Israel's blatant defiance of the UN Security Council and the international community by rejecting Resolution 672, which was unanimously adopted by the Council on 12 October 1990, stipulating that a mission be sent by the UN secretary-general to assess the situation in holy Jerusalem in the aftermath of the 8 October 1990 massacre, and calls on the UN Security Council to impose sanctions on Israel in accordance with Chapter 7 of the UN Charter.

9. Calls on Islamic countries to make efforts to urge the UN Security Council to adopt the measures required to stop Israeli practices and provide the necessary protection for Palestinian people and the holy places in holy Jerusalem and the rest of the occupied territories, including the dispatch of international observers;

10. Calls on UN Security Council member countries to hasten the adoption of practical measures to convene an international conference on peace in the Middle East, under the auspices of the United Nations, in which all the parties in the Arab-Israeli conflict would participate, including the PLO and the five permanent members of the UN Security Council;

11. Stresses that peace will not be established in the Middle East region unless an Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Palestinian and Arab territories, including holy Jerusalem, is completed, and the Palestinian issue is resolved—in view of it being the central issue in the Arab-Israeli conflict—within the framework of a comprehensive, just, and lasting settlement that will provide security and peace for all the countries in the region, including the independent Palestinian state;

12. Asks its president His Majesty King Hassan II to contact the permanent members of the UN Security Council and his holiness the pope with a view to securing the necessary international support to end the Israeli practices and push forward the peace process in the Middle East region;

13. Delegates the ICO secretary-general to contact UNESCO regarding the implementation of its resolution concerning the safeguarding of the Islamic heritage in Jerusalem;

14. Stresses the importance of convening an Islamic-Christian meeting with the participation of the Vatican, and Eastern and other churches in order to safeguard the identity of the holy city, its religious and historical features, and its demographic state.

At the conclusion of its work, the committee expresses its great appreciation and utmost gratitude to its president, His Majesty King Hassan II, for his persistent work for the liberation of holy Jerusalem and the rest of the occupied Arab territories, and for his persistent efforts at the international level to provide backing and support for the struggle and steadfastness of the Palestinian people. The members of the committee also express their gratitude and appreciation to the king, government, and people of Morocco for the care and generous hospitality accorded to the participating delegations.

Palestinian Affairs

Reaction Continues to Al-Aqsa Mosque Incident

UN Said Put to 'Crucial Test'

JN1510213890 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1845 GMT 15 Oct 90

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Brothers, the Zionist occupation is not going to receive the UN secretary-general's fact-finding commission set up in pursuance of Resolution No. 672 on the massacre in holy Jerusalem. The Zionist occupation will turn its back on the team and not cooperate with it. And if the team is permitted entry, it will be regarded only as a group of tourists, no more. This is what the leaders of the Zionist occupation have said. In the eyes of these people the United Nations is at best a travel agency. So how is the Security Council going to react to this Zionist insult?

The U.S. Administration exerted death-defying efforts so that the Security Council response to the holy al-Aqsa massacre would not be stronger than it was. It was just an inadequate, pale, and shabby resolution that failed to condemn the criminal—much as it condemned the extravagance of his crime. It was a resolution that failed to capture the criminal and was content with the dispatch of a commission with no judicial power—one that will only report on the crystal-clear facts concerning the reasons, features, and results of the crime.

And yet the Zionist killers have declared a ferocious war against this unjust, distorted, and vague resolution for the following reasons: First, it does not punish the victim for defending himself and his sanctities to the death; Second, it interferes in what the Zionist killers consider as a purely internal affair; and third, it does not refer to Jerusalem, the scene of the crime, as Israel's eternal capital—something which is categorically rejected by the Zionists because it somewhat harms the status of unified Jerusalem as an absolute, eternal Zionist property for which the Zionists hope and delude themselves.

The Zionist killers were expecting the Security Council to adopt a resolution condemning the victim, holding him responsible for the Zionist desecration of the sanctities, and, consequently, patting the backs of the Zionist killers because they performed their duty of maintaining security. For all these reasons, the Zionist killers launched their attack against the Security Council. And adding insult to injury, they announced that if the fact-finding team is allowed to enter the occupied Palestinian territories, they will come as a group of tourists, at best.

In light of this Zionist welcome of the Security Council tourists, we ask: How is the Council going to react? We do not want to make predictions, but the new, bright image of the Security Council after the cold war and the decisively sharp resolutions concerning the so-called Gulf crisis—a Council that is so fair that even children's milk has not escaped its justness—can hardly be preserved unfaded before the world community and public opinion if the Council fails to deal with the arrogance, aggressiveness, and horrible Zionist acts with the same decisiveness and seriousness it uses in dealing with other issues that contain much more confusion than the obvious Zionist oppression involved in the Palestine question.

If the Council fails to do this its image will do more than fade out; fingers of suspicion will be pointed at its integrity and at the fairness of its permanent members, excluding, of course, the United States and Britain since they are the protectors of Zionism and the reasons behind its survival and the continuation of its crimes.

Very clearly we say that the arrogance of the U.S.-backed-Zionist entity and its disdain for the most fundamental international concepts will place the Security Council in a difficult position and put it to a crucial test—if they have not already done this. Either the Council brandishes the sword of international legitimacy in the face of the Zionist occupation, or it openly raises the white banner to U.S. hegemony and turns itself into a mere herd of cattle led to the slaughterhouse by ravenous U.S. imperialism. Then there will be no such thing in the world as world legitimacy, and the chaos of the law of the jungle will dominate. Does humanity accept this for the sake of the Zionist monster?

ALF Calls for Militant Response

JN1010145890 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1305 GMT 10 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Oct (INA)—The Arab Liberation Front [ALF] has condemned the heinous crime perpetrated in the courtyard of the Jerusalem holy mosque by the Zionist enemy authorities that resulted in the killing and wounding of more than 1,000 Palestinians.

In a statement issued today, the ALF urged all the revolution factions and combatants to wage jihad and to reply in a militant and revolutionary manner to the crimes—a reply that would affect the enemy's dens and avenge the blood of the martyrs.

The ALF asked the UN Security Council to heed President Saddam Husayn's 12 August initiative, which contains solutions to all regional problems, primarily, the Palestine question, before the spark flies that will start a huge conflagration which will be followed by the deluge.

'Arafat Addresses Jerusalem 'Kinfolk'

JN1110191690 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1730 GMT 11 Oct 90

["Text" of a message by Yasir 'Arafat to the Palestinian people in the occupied territories on the occasion of the "brave Jerusalem uprising"—date not given; read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate: God hath purchased of the believers their persons and their goods; for theirs, in return, is the garden of paradise. They fight in his cause and slay and are slain; a promise binding on him in truth through the law, the gospel, and the Koran. And who is more faithful to his covenant than God? Then rejoice in the bargain which ye have concluded: That is the achievement supreme. [Koranic verses]

Brothers, beloved kinfolk in our occupied land; O my beloved kinfolk in the besieged and occupied holy Jerusalem: You are towering over these tyrant and racist Zionist occupiers with your martyrs, blood, and suffering. With your generous sacrifices and your martyrs, you are proving that you are equal to this historic, national, pan-Arab, and Islamic responsibility. You have formed and are still forming this impregnable bastion of sacred mobilization in holy Jerusalem against enemy attempts to interfere with or harm our shrines. As great, sincere, and fighting watchmen, you have formed this great shield at the holy mosque, the place from which the prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings of God be upon him, made his nocturnal journey to heaven, and the cradle of Christ, peace be upon him.

Blessed are your hands which are making history by confronting and resisting, proving to this treacherous enemy that his crimes and all his attempts to harm Islamic and Christian shrines will only come to pass over your dead bodies, which formed with this holy land, a single, strong, and deep-rooted fabric. This fabric is deep-rooted in the land, and its branches soar high up in the sky.

Brothers, beloved kinfolk in Jerusalem, Bethlehem, throughout the West Bank and Gaza Strip: We have an appointment with victory; we have an appointment with the dawn. Victory is inevitable; the dawn is inevitable. The Palestinian state is just a stone's throw away. Tomorrow we will raise the flag of our state, the state of Palestine, over our capital, holy Jerusalem, with God's permission. We will raise it together over the walls, minarets, and churches of Jerusalem. And they will enter your mosque as they had entered it before, and to visit with destruction all that fell into their power. [Koranic verse]

This is God's promise. God does not abandon his promise until the Prophet and those who believe say: When will God's support come? God's support is very close. Revolution until victory.

PLO Issues Statement

JN1210183990 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1621 GMT 12 Oct 90

[Statement issued by the PLO Central Council in Tunis on al-Aqsa Mosque incidents of 8 October—date not given]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The PLO Central Council reiterates the resolve of all our people within and outside our homeland to raise high the banner of the blessed intifadah, to keep it going to victory, and to sustain our proud revolution until independence is seized and the soil of the homeland is freed, above all of holy Jerusalem, the capital of our independent Palestinian state.

The council appreciates his holiness the pope's statement condemning and denouncing this massacre, and the statements of Christian leaders urging the intensification of resistance and protection of Islamic and Christian sanctities and resisting the occupying invaders of Palestine and the buildup of American armies and those in league with them.

The PLO Central Council urges joint action by all sisterly Arab states and Muslim countries and the Arab and Islamic nation to protect holy shrines in Jerusalem and Palestine and confront the conspiracy to usurp the rights of the entire nation and impose on it a regime of humiliation and imperialism. The Central Council stresses that the bloody Jerusalem massacre requires the international community, the United Nations, and the Security Council to move vigorously and promptly to contain the Israeli series of terror against our Palestinian people; to secure international protection for our people and land; to give our people the opportunity to exercise self-determination and set up their independent state on their soil; and to work to convene an effective international conference with the participation of the PLO—the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Further, the Council calls on humanitarian, political, and religious organizations around the world to support

these benevolent efforts. It looks to friendly nations, not least the EC, the USSR, the PRC, and the Nonaligned nations, to take special responsibility for enabling the United Nations and the Security Council to discharge their duties and responsibilities in ensuring the enforcement of international legitimacy, particularly regarding the Palestine and Middle East questions.

The PLO Central Council holds the U.S. Administration fully responsible for its blatant bias toward Israel against our Palestinian people and the Arab and Islamic nation and for attempts to foil efforts toward an effective resolution by the Security Council to assure protection for our people and sanctities and the sanctities of the Arabs, Muslims, and Christians against persistent Israeli crimes and violations.

The American military presence that arrived in the region two months ago under the pretext of defending international legitimacy today exposes its true aggressive aims against the Arab and Islamic nation and its greedy ambitions to take over Arab oil and resources. It is turning its back on international legitimacy regarding Jerusalem and Palestine. This aggressive stance requires everyone to withhold cover from the American presence and work for its immediate departure from the region. Our Palestinian people have been, and will continue to be, more than a match for the terror of the invaders, with their heads held sky high. They will not be defeated by the crimes of the Zionist fascists. They will never bow except to God Almighty. We will, with God's help, raise our flag high over liberated Palestine, and thanks to the struggle and resolve of our people and the backing of all honorable forces in our Arab homeland and around the world, Jerusalem will remain a symbol of victory and a lighthouse for steadfastness and peace, and a capital of the independent state of Palestine. And another favor will He bestow, which ye do love,—help from God and a speedy victory. So give the glad tidings to the believers. [Koranic verses]. Revolution until victory.

PLO Condemns CSFR Stance

LD1310170290 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 13 Oct 90

[Text] The PLO has criticized the Czechoslovak Foreign Ministry statement which blamed the al-Aqsa Mosque massacre on the Palestinian people.

The WAFA [Palestinian Press Agency] political editor said that that statement amazed the PLO because of the painful dissimilarities contained in it as a result of the complete turnaround of the Czechoslovak political stance.

The editor added that Israeli officials admit Israeli responsibility for the massacre, and regretted that Czechoslovakia volunteered to adopt such a position when the world stands stupefied before the racist Israeli terrorist massacre.

Algeria

Iraqi Deputy Premier Ramadan Visits Algiers

Says Withdrawal Rumors 'Subversive'

LD1610055490 Algiers Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 15 Oct 90

[Excerpt] After the reaction by the INA [Iraqi] News Agency, and the statement by the Iraqi minister of information, the Iraqi number two Mr. Taha Yasin Ramadan confirmed today in Algiers that reports about a withdrawal by his country remain groundless. The Iraqi deputy premier even described these rumors as subversive.

Mr. Taha Yasin Ramadan was received by President Chadli Bendjedid, with whom he discussed the efforts being made to avoid an armed conflict in the region. [passage omitted]

Meets With Bendjedid

JN1510162790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1435 GMT 15 Oct 90

[Text] Algiers, 15 Oct (INA)—At noon today, Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid received Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister. They explored the potential for developing brotherly ties between Iraq and Algeria and discussed Arabian Gulf development.

Bendjedid reaffirmed Algeria's consistency on Arab issues and his country's determined stand against any potential aggression against Iraq, and the economic blockade of the Iraqi people.

He noted that Iraq's prowess is common Arab property which we will defend against any plans to compromise it.

Bendjedid called Iraq's blueprint for a solution to all regional problems, including the Palestine question, a solid foundation for an all-inclusive settlement to the problems of the area. International legitimacy should be invoked in promoting a solution to the Palestinian question if Israeli recalcitrance is to be curbed and Palestinians are to be protected, he added.

The Algerian president asked Mr. Taha Yasin Ramadan to convey his greetings to His Excellency President Saddam Husayn and his best wishes to the Iraqi people and for relations between the brotherly states.

Leaves After Brief Visit

LD1610055890 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 15 Oct 90

[Text] The Iraqi president's envoy to our country, Taha Yasin Ramadan, left Algeria after a brief visit and talks with the head of state, held today at the presidency, during which he conveyed a message to him from the Iraqi president, Saddam Husayn.

Bendjedid Receives DFLP Leader Hawatimah

LD1010060990 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1800 GMT 9 Oct 90

[Text] The president of the Republic received this morning the secretary-general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

This meeting (?takes place) one day after the Jerusalem massacre.

In this context, the head of state expressed his deep concern regarding the dangerous developments in this region. The whole international community is now called upon to take urgent action to protect Palestinian citizens, President Chadli Bendjedid said.

Reiterating Algeria's support for the Palestinian cause, the head of state stressed that the Security Council must impose implementation of the UN resolutions for a just and durable settlement of the Palestinian question.

Bendjedid, PFLP's Habash Discuss Al-Aqsa

LD1510093190 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 14 Oct 90

[Text] At the presidential palace today Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid received George Habash, Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] Secretary-General. The meeting comes in the wake of the Jerusalem massacre and the UN Security Council's adoption of resolution No. 672 which recommends sending a fact-finding committee to the occupied territories.

President Bendjedid last week received Nayif Hawatimah, [Democratic Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine secretary-general] and Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat. At that time President Bendjedid told the Palestinian leaders that Algeria had initiated contacts with the international community to ensure its commitment to protecting the Palestinians.

Egypt

'Abd-al-Majid Denies Envoy to Jordan Recalled

NC1610125890 Cairo MENA in English 1231 GMT 16 Oct90

[Text] Cairo, Oct. 16 (MENA)—Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid today denied press reports that Egypt has recalled its ambassador to Jordan. The minister said that the ambassador was on a mission here and will return to his workplace in the Jordanian capital.

Further on Al-Mahjub Assassination

Assassins Foreign 'Beyond Any Doubt'

NC1510072790 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2314 GMT 14 Oct 90

[Excerpts] Cairo, 14 Oct (MENA)—AL-AHRAM reports in its 15 October issue that all available reports and material evidence in the hands of the Egyptian security organs prove beyond any doubt that the group of terrorist murderers who assassinated Dr. Rif'at al-Mahjub and his bodyguards and security men are Arab nationals who had infiltrated into the country to carry out their plan.

The paper says that criminal laboratory experts stated in their final report about the incident that they [as received] were able to defuse the bombs which the perpetrators left 10 minutes before they were due to go off. These bombs were placed under the Semiramis Hotel. Three of these bombs were placed in (Pirosol) cans. They were timed to go off at specific times to cause the greatest losses.

The driver of the Mazda taxi has given himself up to state security investigators. He provided information about the perpetrator who forced him to drive him, and who opened fire at Brigadier General 'Adil Salim and First Lieutenant Hatim Hamdi. The driver affirmed that the culprit's accent was Palestinian. He also explained to the security people the reasons which prompted him not to come forward and talk to the security men immediately after the incident. [passage omitted]

[In its press review at 0435 GMT on 15 October, Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic says, "In an editorial entitled "The Assassination of a Symbol," AL-AHRAM focuses on the assassination of Dr. Rif'at al-Mahjub and his companions. It asserts that the motive behind the crime was not personal and that he was chosen as a constitutional symbol. It notes that the professional killers sought to attack this symbol of Egypt at a time when it steps into a new phase of democratic process.

"The paper points out that hostile forces selected Dr. al-Mahjub as their target to strike at the flourishing democratic process and to drive a wedge between the leadership and the people, by creating delusions about an unstable situation and shaken security, and by terrorizing the people so that they would decline to participate with his leadership in any unanimous stands.

"The paper concludes by saying that the aim still remains to strike at every democratic move in Egypt, on the grounds that every righteous step in this direction is a setback to all opposing regimes in the region and that any example set by Egypt in this respect is a definite curse on these despotic regimes."]

Investigation Updated

NC1510190290 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1815 GMT 15 Oct 90

[Excerpts] Cairo, 15 Oct (MENA)—Security organs are continuing their efforts to arrest the terrorists who assassinated People's Assembly Speaker Dr. Rif'at al-Mahjub and five security men on Friday [8 October]. These organs are also carrying out intensive investigations of several of those arrested on suspicion of perpetrating or planning his criminal act.

A responsible security source confirmed to MENA that the terrorists are still inside the country and have not departed through any of the exit points. [passage omitted]

A responsible source in the passport, immigration, and nationality department has also said that the department widened the circle of suspects immediately after the incident. He said that all those who entered Egypt in the days before the incident from countries that could possibly be exporting terrorism to Egypt have been listed, and their identities, places of residence, and the dates of their arrivals and departures have been determined.

Security organs today interrogated many of those arrested after the incident. The detained suspects are being paraded in front of eyewitnesses in an attempt to identify them and ascertain whether the perpetrators are among them. The security organs released a number of suspects after ascertaining that they had nothing to do with the incident, but are continuing to interrogate the others. [passage omitted]

In light of the information provided by the driver of the Mazda 929 taxi used by one of the terrorists after the operation, the security organs are intensifying their efforts to arrest some suspects who entered the country before the incident but have not yet left. The driver said that the terrorist, who spoke with a non-Egyptian dialect, asked him to drive the car toward the 6 October bridge. [passage omitted]

Regarding the two Pakistanis and the Saudi merchant who were suspected and detained by the Suez Port authorities yesterday, a responsible security source said that the two Pakistanis have been referred to security organs for interrogation because of their close resemblance to pictures of some of the culprits. The Saudi merchant was released after it was ascertained that he had nothing to do with the incident. [passage omitted]

Man Arrested With Forged Passport

NC1510212290 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2030 GMT 15 Oct 90

[Excerpt] Cairo, 15 Oct (MENA)—Security organs at Cairo international airport foiled today an attempt by an Arab passenger to board a Libyan airliner with a forged passport. He was handed over to state security organs for investigation.

Passport officials discovered that the original photo in the passenger's passport had been removed and replaced with the photo of the young man.

[Cairo MENA in English at 1936 GMT on 15 October carries a similar report with the following variation: "The international airport security authorities today foiled an attempt by an Iraqi national to travel aboard a Libyan airliner using a forged passport.

"The authorities discovered that the photo of the original passport has been replaced by another photo of the Iraqi passenger."]

On the other hand, a security source at the airport said that security authorities have allowed a U.S. passenger of Egyptian origin to leave. He was arrested yesterday together with two other persons while attempting to leave the country. [passage omitted]

300 in Custody for Questioning

NC1610085190 Cairo MENA in English 0815 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Text] Cairo, Oct. 16—(MENA)—In its report on the police investigations of last Friday's assassination of the People's Assembly speaker, his driver and a number of policemen, "AL-AHRAM" said that the authorities have taken into custody 300 persons for questioning. Both "AL-AHRAM" and "AL-AKHBAR" reported in their front-page stories that the authorities yesterday arrested two Lebanese, one Egyptian and three Syrians resembling police composite pictures of the suspected killers as reported by eyewitnesses. The driver of a Mazda taxicab who turned himself in was released yesterday after questioning.

According to Interior Minister Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa, as quoted by "AL-AKHBAR" in a separate story, he had given orders for the immediate release of any suspects who were found to be unconnected with the case. "AL-JUMHURIYAH" reported on its front page that police investigations into the case had indicated that the killers were still in Egypt and had not left the country. "Al-JUMHURIYAH" also reported that the authorities yesterday arrested a Palestinian youth in a furnished flat whose features were similar to those of one of the suspected killers in the case.

Columnist Comments

JN1610095390 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 14 Oct 90 p 7

["Just an Opinion" column by Salah Muntasir: "Why Rif'at al-Mahjub?"]

[Text] All those who disagreed with Rif'at al-Mahjub were the first to announce their denunciation of and displeasure with his assassination.

Assassination is one of the ways of dealing with matters. It is the way of treachery, cowardice, and meanness. In appearance, it looks as if it is directed against an individual, however, in essence, it is aimed against the freedom of the people, their democracy, stability, and interests, and against all the beautiful values and principles which can never grow and yield fruit except in an atmosphere of safety. For all these reasons, the people not only reject assassination, but in fact call on the state to pursue its perpetrators to reach the cowardly invisible hands that manipulated to eradicate and destroy them.

From what has been said about this incident, it becomes clear that the four persons who took part in the assassination—and there may have been other professional killers who planned for this crime—chose as the scene of assassination near the end of a tunnel behind which they could secure protection for themselves and direct their machine guns at their target. They first opened fire on the escort vehicle, and consequently ensured control of the target. They had with them various quantities of hand grenades, explosive charges, and machine guns. This proves that those involved are professionals. They chose a Friday, for this is the only day [in the week] when this place is quiet and consequently, they could perpetrate their crime. Also, their escape took place in an organized manner. This indicates, along with the previous indications, that the criminals are of those professionals who are trained in acts of terrorism. Despite all this, the question remains: Why Dr. Rif'at al-Mahjub? The man had become out of office after the referendum that took place one day before he was assassinated, which resulted in dissolving the People's Assembly. The man had no stands that could win him the protection of a terrorist group that imagines that the possession of a grenade and a machine gun can make it control the world and change its destiny.

More likely, the crime was not aimed against the person of Dr. al-Mahjub, but at the atmosphere of anxiety and instability which the criminals and those who planned their crime believed they could achieve. We believe this will not be achieved, because before this, Mubarak's government confronted much more difficult situations and crises, which it was able to defuse resolutely and decisively without affecting Egypt's stability or undermining its democracy and freedom.

Perhaps, time will prove that the People's Assembly speaker sacrificed himself for the sake of his homeland to expose a plan, which we hope will not be long before it is revealed to us.

Editor Calls for Vigilance

JN1610110390 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 14 Oct 90 pp 1, 3

[Article by chief editor Mahfuz al-Ansari: "Mubarak and a New Phase of Vitality and Vigilance"]

[Text] Yesterday, a new phase of national action began, and today Mubarak begins a new year of leading this action. The event and the occasion have come at a very delicate and serious moment. This was escalated by a

cowardly criminal, terrorist act that was aimed first and foremost against Egypt. Dr. Rif'at al-Mahjub and five innocent sons of the homeland were the victims of this act. Mubarak's Egypt, amid all that is taking place in the region in terms of severe and decisive conflicts and confrontations, has resolutely decided to proceed along the the road it has chosen since Mubarak assumed power on 14 October 1981. This is the road of development, democracy, and peace—along which it has waged and is still waging battles and for whose sake it has fought, and its war has not stopped and will not stop. If resolution, determination, and challenge have accompanied the past nine years of Mubarak's rule in defense of three objectives that are represented by three principles, then we are certain that the new phase of national action—that we began by dissolving the People's Assembly through a popular decision in accordance with the Constitution, in respect for the provisions of the judiciary, and for the sake of upholding the supremacy of law—requires more and more from us. Mubarak has chosen to wage the homeland's battles on all fronts simultaneously. He has refused to work on one front at the expense of another. He has refused to separate the movement of national action on the domestic front from that on the external front, because there is a close connection between the internal and the external. They are two faces of the same coin. Their dependence on each other does not allow separation or distinction between them. This is why Mubarak has decided that internal action should take place simultaneously with external contacts, activity, and action. I believe the call for dissolving the People's Assembly and for electing a new one was not coincidental with a problem that has shocked the region and the world, the crisis on which Egypt has had a clear, frank, and principled stand from the very beginning; namely, the Gulf crisis.

This policy, which pursues simultaneous action and linking of events, is the essence and linchpin of the politics and philosophy which Mubarak has chosen for his rule since the very beginning.

He is determined to pursue the course of democracy as manifested in freedom of speech and expression, free press, opposition parties and the existence of various views.

He is determined to establish an open society whose forces are balanced, whose segments are cooperative, and whose individuals work hard and cooperate with each other.

He is determined to pursue the course of development which progresses steadily on two feet and bases, through integration rather than fighting, which are the private and public sectors.

These steps will open the door for development and progress, leave judgment for the results, and eventually grant society the ability to forge their options and define their views.

He is sure that stability is the climate of his experience; that peace is the guarantor of its progress; and that society's psychological soundness and healthy relations create progress and establish the foundations of peace. According to his perspective, stability means the stability of the living society which knows its interests and is well aware of its enemies and the threats and sources of threats.

Peace, in his book, means the peace of the strong; the peace which is established on right and justice, without doing injustice to the weak or surrendering to the strong. So, peace and stability, according to this perspective and these conditions, can survive and stand up to conspiracies.

The pan-Arab crisis which Egypt and the region are experiencing has proved that Egypt alone is the one which entered the battle and test of democracy and passed this test. While Egypt is still determined to cling to this experience and fight for it, the neighborhood and vicinity represent an environment of tyranny and ignorance which struggles by words, fights by treason, and gains victory through treachery.

This crisis, moreover, has proved that Egypt alone has managed to establish structures of development and progress in agriculture, industry, services, and manpower.

Perhaps the percentages of development and achievements are far less than the creativeness of its sons, the efforts of its workers, the ambitions of its people, and the vividness of our imagination and thought.

By all standards, however, the development rates we have achieved are the higher, regionally. By all standards, also, Egypt has created wide employment opportunities despite unemployment. Egypt has also produced many scientists, intellectuals, professors, and artists. Egypt has provided 11 million seats for students in universities, schools and colleges every year. It has also provided a bed in every hospital, and homes for the millions of human beings begotten by the Egyptian land every year.

All this happened while "neighbors" or others were sowing malice and harvesting destruction, blood, and killing.

For all these reasons we say:

We are on the threshold of a new stage of national action.

We are beginning a new year with Mubarak, under his leadership and alongside his march.

We are bidding farewell to a dear Egyptian and Arab, martyr Dr. Rif'at al-Mahjub.

We say that the challenges imposed on the Egyptian people are increasing day by day.

Likewise, the conspiracies against the democracy of this people, their progress and development, safety and national unity, and their stability and regional and psychological safety will increase in their ferocity. The assassination of Dr. al-Mahjub is only the beginning. I do not want to make others panic. I merely want to stress the need for vigilance, watchfulness, vitality, and action.

The progress and development of peoples is not only tied to their action and efforts and production. The security of peoples, similarly, cannot be safeguarded by security forces alone.

The continuation of progress and security are the responsibility of the live, conscious society which works and is always watchful without being arrogant. We always contend that live societies make live apparatuses, and not vice versa.

On this unique day which witnessed more than one occasion and incident, we say to Mubarak:

We are with you in these difficult circumstances because we realize that the target is Egypt—the Egypt of democracy, development, and progress.

Hand Grenade Discovered in Central Cairo

NC1610134790 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1322 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Text] Cairo, 16 Oct (MENA)—Security authorities discovered a hand grenade which unidentifed persons had placed at the entrance to the subway station opposite the Nile Hilton Hotel in central Cairo.

Explosives experts went to the scene and immediately removed the grenade from the station's entrance, which was crowded with citizens, to a nearby garden. Major General 'Adil Nijm, head of the fire and explosives department, defused the grenade after removing the detonation pin.

Libya

'One Million' To Be Mobilized in Case of Action

LD1610091490 Tripoli JANA in English 0839 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Text] Tripoli, al-Tomor [October] 16, Jamahiriya News Agency—The leader of the revolution, in his important speech before members of the people's representation, has said that if anything happens in the Gulf, the reserves will be recalled from among the [word indistinct] of the people [words indistinct] regular army, apart from mobilising the general military training in the defence areas and the jamahiri establishments from among peasants, producers, students and government officials from the [words indistinct] the army who were regulars. All of them will be recalled for people's representation.

He adds that if anything happens in the Gulf, we will be compelled to announce the general mobilisation like those countries that will announce mobilisation.

He continues that Egypt, Turkey and a number of countries worldwide will dispatch troops to Gulf and other countries have announced mobilisation because they want participation in the [word indistinct] other countries have announced mobilisation because they are afraid.

We, too, if anything happens in the Gulf, will be obliged to announce general mobilisation recruiting no less than one million Libyans to take up arms because we do not [word indistinct] the developments that may happen.

Mauritania

President Confers With Iraq's Ramadan

JN1610072990 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2130 GMT 15 Oct 90

[Text] Nouakchott—Mauritanian President Colonel Maaouya Ould Sid 'Ahmed Taya received this evening Taha Yasin Ramadan, Iraqi Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister. During the meeting, Ramadan conveyed to the Mauritanian president the greetings of President Saddam Husayn and the pride of the Iraqi people and leadership in the genuine position of the Mauritanian people as well as Iraq's eagerness to promote cooperation with fraternal Mauritania.

Ramadan briefed the Mauritanian president on the developments in the Arabian Gulf and the threats to the holy shrines in Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] as a result of the American and NATO military occupation, stressing the need to expose and resist that occupation. He also affirmed that the American-Western presence in the region has exposed the agent Arab rulers affiliated to the United States, the ally of the Zionists who occupy the Arab lands in Palestine, Lebanon, and Golan.

Ramadan also said that the provisions of President Saddam Husayn's 12 August initiative represent the best framework for bringing about a just peace in accordance with the just international legitimacy, and not the aggressive, optional legitimacy being imposed by the Arabs' enemies led by the United States.

The Mauritanian president asked Ramadan to convey his greetings to president Saddam Husayn and to stress Mauritania's readiness to defend Arab rights and regain all the Arab territories occupied by the United States, the Zionists, and their agents and allies.

The Mauritanian president then praised President Saddam Husayn's initiative, and said it is a just pan-Arab initiative that serves peace, stressing that the pan-Arab and Islamic world is aware of the situation and is ready to defend the Islamic sanctities in Najd and Hejaz.

Morocco

King Hassan Addresses Parliament 12 Oct

LD1210222190 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 1707 GMT 12 Oct 90

[Speech by King Hassan II at the opening session of the Moroccan Parliament in Rabat on 12 Oct—live]

[Excerpts] Praise be to God, and prayers and peace be upon our master the Prophet of God, his kinfolk, and his companions. Gentlemen, the speech I am going to deliver to you today is very different from previous speeches because, while we are tackling our problems, interests, and issues, this does not prevent us from being an active member of our greater family, the Arab community, and the even greater one, the Islamic community. [passage omitted]

You all know the tragedy our community is going through because I am convinced, as you are, that since our childhood and irrespective of the events that we have experienced, we have never seen differences as sharp as they are today between all the members of this community. Differences are such that even in the regional groupings, which we had thought would become like cement to the Arab League, I say even in these regional groupings, flaws have appeared together with differences of opinion and positions.

What is worse is that this state we are going through has come at an unexpected time. More still: We were expecting to see the Arabs have their part, thanks be to God, from this international good omen that is prevailing in both the East and the West. We hoped we would find the oportunity to make room for our genius, our multiplicity in languages, races, and continent; to make for ourselves and our heirs room that befits us; and the proper scope for us to swim, dream, work, produce, and create. How disappointed we are when we see that all think about the gathering, think about the union, think about fruitful cooperation. [sentence as heard] As to we, who are the sons of the same language, the Arabic language, the language which God Almighty wished for his great book, the language which if it indicates anything indicates vitality as we speak like our fathers and forefathers spoke for centuries. [sentence as heard] The language brings us together; religion brings us together; [word indistinct] brings us together. Ordeals have brought us together, and also the battles. Doubts, dreams, and hopes brought us together, and we were also brought together by glory, independence, liberation, and the recovery of full sovereignty by the states.

What is the reality in the East? As you know, gentlemen, when I am proud of attending your honorable house—proud as a citizen and proud as a father responsible for all the bodies irrespective of their political natures or their ideologies—when I am among you I try to deal with a subject to tell you my opinion regarding it without this being a program or a plan. Rather, at most they are thoughts and assessments from which you are free to take what you deem fit. You can postpone from them what you deem fit. You can drop finally what you deem fit from them. The thing I want to tell you in brief is how I see the Middle East issue. I want you not to consider it a plan or detailed program which solves a problem or settles a dispute. It is merely a fair and neutral description of what I see, and what I see behind the first curtain, the second curtain, and the third curtain.

When Kuwait was occupied by Iraq our stance was clear and unambiguous, a stance which made Morocco neutral. Morocco understands Iraq's problems and understands Iraq's demands. But, Morocco, however, does not consider, as its position has always been, a violation of sovereignty and the use of force to be a source for any permanent political solution. Our stance was at that time clear and unambiguous despite what has been said about it and written about it. However, when we sent a special envoy to His Excellency President Saddam, he received our envoy warmly and enthusiastically, a matter which made us understand that his appreciation for the king of Morocco was still the same and that our friendship had not changed. On my part I would also like to reaffirm such feelings and say: My respect for Mr. Saddam is still intact, as well as my friendship with him. [passage omitted]

Matters got inflated. The United Nations intervened. The UN Security Council also intervened. And it was decided to send multinational forces and to impose a blockade and boycott. And we are now faced with two choices: One says the war is a must in order to end this problem and remove this thorn facing us. Here we mean the countries of the Gulf; they have every right to be afraid and they should have the right to be afraid. The other says: No, we should work toward finding a peaceful solution because it will spare us a number of problems and difficulties. I personally have no choice in this respect.

But, if I were to be biased, I believe that war is like cauterization, it is the last resort in medicine. If we can [changes thought] because war, what are the dimensions of war? Its dimensions are that war will not be confined to the geographical battlefield. Accounts are extremely numerous in the Middle East between states, between parties, religious bodies, and family origins. If war were to break out, it would be like a detonator that would enable everybody to settle his accounts. We cannot and we will not be able to make it a war with limited objectives.

Second, Israel would use such a war as a cause and a pretext to mix up all and to fight whoever may have raised his head or shown that he was powerful. If losses were inflicted on Americans, French, English, and other armies, then it would be losses in men and equipment only. But, as far as the Arabs are concerned, such losses would be in men, equipment, installations, territory, cities, villages, plants, and fields, whether farming or oil fields. The armies will indeed leave that region, but they will stay there for 20 or 30 years. Ashes will remain as a consequence of destruction and war.

What is the attractive aspect of a peaceful solution? Naturally, a peaceful settlement is attractive. A peaceful settlement implies first that matters return to what they were before. Iraq must return to its borders, and legitimacy must return to Kuwait. Then it would be possible, whether at the Arab, Islamic, or international level—at the choice of the two warring sides, if they agree on a committee of judges or arbitrators or wisemen—it would be possible to look into the causes of this war, to create a climate for the future, to stem tension, to give everyone

his right, and to create excellent and very good relations between both Iraq and Kuwait.

Apart fom that, we must be realistic. We do know that the opponents of Iraq are not just Arab states. They exist outside the Arab states, but the fact is that some Arab states are the most hostile to Iraq, and it is these Arab states that are adding fuel to the situation. It is these states that would become—God forbid—yet another target for anyone believing that his interests had been threatened.

Hence, I say to my friend President Saddam Husayn: Do not forget that Kuwait and Iraq and their geographical position represent almost two-thirds of the world energy reserves. He must realize this.

In the name of God Almighty, please leave this predicament. Use the wide open door, the door of pride. You have linked the fate of the Arab-Israeli destiny. You should be content that international public opinion has awakened. You should be content that even those who used to reject the idea of an international conference have begun to call for such a conference day and night. However, brother Saddam, if you set a timetable in your link between your withdrawal from Kuwait with the solution to the Arab-Israeli problem, you will have dug a permanent grave for the Arab-Israeli cause.

You should ask from us all; ask your friends and enemies; ask the Christians, Muslims, and Jews; ask all races in all continents for a written commitment, a commitment of virtue, a word of honor, a charter of honor that as long a solution to the issue of Iraq and Kuwait begins to take shape, the international community will begin to look into the cause of the Arabs and Israel.

There should be a written and moral commitment, an undertaking of virtue, and a promise of equality between these two issues. One should wonder why the United Nations Security Council was mobilized within 15 days to discuss Iraq's issue, and why international public opinion has been ignoring for 40 years all the resolutions regarding the Palestinians and the Arab nation.

Please, please brother Saddam, do not set a timetable in your linkage with these two issues. You should be content that you have managed to link these two issues ethically, morally, and methodically. Therefore, spare us this war catastrophe. Let our children live, play, grow up like their brothers all over the world. Let our youth look forward to a world where neither East nor West exists anymore, where no system is fighting another system, no ideology is competing against another idealogy. Let our youth, men, women, and children dream about a tomorrow full of hard work and success, a tomorrow of labor and technology, a tomorrow of brotherhood and friendship.

On the other hand, it is only just and fair that if we choose the peaceful solution; the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and other Gulf countries have the right to request or take freely the necessary material and moral guarantees to protect their security so that such acts are not repeated.

Ladies and gentlemen, as I have told you, this is not a program or a plan. These are my thoughts as an Arab. This is my contribution. Likewise, every one of you should have a contribution in this matter because we are dealing with our larger family. Morocco is the smaller family. It would be out of laziness and negligence for us not to try and work hard to find a solution. If my speech may hurt the sensitivity of some kings and presidents of Arab states, or who may have misunderstood my words, I would like to express my apologies in advance. I have told them and am telling them that I am not biased. Yes, I am biased toward justice and legitimacy. I am biased toward the search for peace and not toward the search for capitulation.

Is it in Iraq's interest to understand that if a war erupts, Iraq will lose out militarily? This is what I can visualize today: Following submission, a somewhat international mandate will be imposed on Iraq. This could take the form of a mandate, as was the case for Syria and Lebanon, or the form of a protectorate, or the form of disarmament of armament reductions on the Iraqi state for a number of years. This is my view regarding this issue. I pray to God Almighty to guide us toward the right path and help us forget this matter. I pray to him that when this matter is over he will help us forget it because there is no interest, neither for us nor for our successors, in remembering this matter.

However, we should all be aware that whatever the end of this matter, be it war or peace, we, like the rest of the world, especially economically speaking, will begin to record two forms of history: before 2 August 1990, and after 2 August 1990.

The criteria have changed. People have started to feel other dangers; the crisis has been deepened. Non-Arab countries will probably record the pre- and post-2 August 1990 for about 10 years. This is my personal opinion. As for Arab states, I fear they will record the pre- and post-2 August 1990 for decades, probably for 30 or 40 years. This leads us to talk about our personal problems.

Ladies and gentlemen, you should be aware that the draft budget will be submitted to you shortly and that the situation is not entirely confined to Morocco alone. On the contrary, the economic situation affects all world countries: large, medium, and small countries. I would like you to take into account these elements, which are not related to any ideology nor party politics nor interpretation.

These are facts imposed on us; we are experiencing them as is the rest of the world. This does not mean that we will not try and surmount them. [passage omitted]

God willing, we will try to achieve self-sufficiency in energy. In a few minutes time I will give the parliament a report that I have received from experts on shale oil

resources, as seen today, to study. I can tell you that this report is full of good news and that if we follow the plan included in this report, in three or four years time we will be able to achieve self-sufficiency in the energy field. Why, because the price of shale oil which may cost between 24 and 25 [currency not specified] would be beneficial for our consumption; we will not lose. [sentence as heard] Obviously, if we want to market and sell it we will lose, because the profit that we may derive from it will not be great. However, if we leave five million tonnes only for our consumption we would have made a great profit, especially if we compare this to the price of a barrel that costs $40. I do not believe the barrel price will fall under $30- 35. I believe this is good news for everybody. I will circulate the report for everybody, not only political groups, so that they will be able to discuss and study it and realize that the future is a little rosy and full of optimism.

Before I end my speech, I would like to remind you that the Constitution is clear. You shoulder its responsibility.

And you do not need to ask questions on how to shoulder your responsibilities. I have followed, like any other Moroccan, your passionate, fruitful, and rich discussions when you put forward the idea of motion of censor [no confidence in the government]. The Constitution stipulates that you can put forward a motion of censor every day if you elect to do so. The amazing thing is not the fact that you demanded it last month. What I have found amazing is the fact that you have only demanded it twice in the life of the current parliament. I would also like to see my government being censored. I would like to see people (?asking questions). [applause] I would like to see my government pondering how to answer someone. [Passage indistinct]

There should be no distinction between Arab and non-Arab or between who is sitting on this side of the parliament or in the middle of it or anywhere else. You are all the sons of this country. You have all proven your commitment to this homeland. Only circumstances have compelled someone to sit here and the other to sit over there [on the government side or opposition side of parliament]. However, I would like to tell you that as far as I am concerned all Moroccans are equal. [applause] Anyone who says there is no God, but Allah, and Muhammad is his messenger, and asserts the Sahara is Moroccan, is a Moroccan. [applause] However, anyone still determined to say that the Sahara is not a part of Morocco—even if the whole world comes to his support and regardless of the number of international organizations supporting him—he is not, and I swear by Allah, that he is not and will never be a Moroccan. [applause]

As far as the Sahara is concerned, I have received the [UN] secretary-general's message on the report [on Western Sahara]. I have issued orders that our report, our memorandum, and our legitimate and well-founded stance should be distributed to members of the parliament. The speaker will circulate it to the various parties, the various factions, or directly to the members themselves, as you like. You will see, thanks be to God, that in accordance with our custom and out of our respect for the souls of our fathers, forefathers, people, and glorious history, we have not neglected our rights. Our stance has legal, historical, and demographic credibility and proves before anything else that it is not an expansionist one. We only want to regain what is ours; make ourselves happy as well as those around us. May God give us strength and wisdom. [passage omitted]

Bahrain

UK Middle East Forces Commander Meets With Amir

JN1310115490 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0915 GMT 13 Oct 90

[Excerpt] Manama, 13 Oct (WAKH) His Highness the Amir of Bahrain Shaykh 'Isa Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah received here this morning Lieutenant General Sir Peter de la Billiere, British forces commander in the Middle East, and the accompanying delegation.

They reviewed the latest developments in the Gulf crisis, in addition to bilateral relations and issues of mutual interest. [passge omitted]

Confers With Heir Apparent

JN1410144290 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1150 GMT 13 Oct 90

[Excerpt] Manama, 13 Oct (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Hamad Ibn-'Isa Al Khalifah, heir apparent and commander in chief of the Bahraini Defense Force, today received Lieutenant General Sir Peter de la Billiere, commander of the British forces in the Middle East, and the accompanying delegation.

They discussed current developments in the Gulf in addition to bilateral cooperation. [passage omitted]

French Told Force Probably Necessary Against Iraq

LD1610091590 Paris Domestic Service in French 0700 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Text] In the Gulf Emirates the leaders are losing patience with the Gulf situation, Roland Dumas has noticed. At a press conference in Bahrain on the evening of 15 October, the French foreign minister acknowledged that everywhere he has visited people are wondering about the embargo. His interlocutors confided to him that it would most likely be necessary to resort to force in order to make Iraq give way.

Medical Checkups for Amir After 'Indisposition'

JN1510203390 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1730 GMT 15 Oct 90

[Text] Manama, 15 Oct (WAKH)—Bahraini Amir His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah has been admitted to the hospital to undergo some medical checkups, it was announced in Manama today.

A statement by the amir's office said his highness was admitted to the hospital because of an indisposition. The statement prayed to God Almighty to protect his highness from all harm and grant him good health.

Kuwait

Prime Minister Delivers Speech to Conference

LD1310150290 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic 0842 GMT 13 Oct 90

[Speech by Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, Kuwait heir apparent and prime minister, at the popular conference in Jeddah—live]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Thanks be to God, master of the universe, prayers and peace on our lord, the last of the prophets and the most honorable messenger.

Your highness the Amir, may God safeguard you, my brothers and the dear sons of my homeland, peace, God's mercy and blessings be upon you.

I greet you with a fraternal and blessed greeting, and I greet through you our heroic and steadfast kinfolk in our beloved Kuwait [applause] and the remainder of our people outside our dear homeland who reject the sinful aggression. We thank God in bad days as we have done in good days, and we thank him during difficult times as we have done in the good times. [passage omitted]

Our small and peaceful people have been subjected to an aggression from a neighbor who belongs to Arabism and Islam. We supported him in his ordeal and stood by him during his hard times, only to see him betray the obligation and violate the covenant and reward our good with evil. He hit us with the weapons of destruction at his disposal and marched on our country with hundreds of thousands of soldiers, thousands of tanks and aircraft, in a comprehensive land, air, and sea war, with the premeditated intention of committing aggression and invading. He aimed to destroy the Kuwaiti people and erase Kuwait's political and civil identity. He is under the illusion that he will erase a state, eliminate a people, erase a civilization, and abolish a history, in an effort to place the world before a new reality. [passage omitted]

Brothers, this is not the time to talk in detail about this. Suffice it to record today together several facts which we do not believe are the subject of discussion or dispute.

First, the members of our armed forces: the army, the national guard, and the police, stood like heroes in confronting the armies of aggression and waged an inequitable battle in which they were not given the chance to use all their capacities, abilities, and qualifications. Yet they did well and defied death in defense of the homeland. Thus they acted at the level that was expected from them. [passage omitted]

Second, and this is a big historic deed which our future generations have the right to repeat and be proud of: All the people of Kuwait stood as one, rejecting the invasion and denouncing the aggression. The aggressor miscalculated when they thought they could, through promises and threats, find Kuwaitis ready to cooperate with them.

They were only disappointed. They failed to find even one Kuwaiti ready to cooperate with them or to participate in their agent and false government. This forced them to make plain the truth about their evil intentions and to expose their criminal plan by announcing the annexation of Kuwait to Iraq. [passage omitted]

A third undisputed fact is that the people of Kuwait have proved at a time of hardship that they are one family, in word and deed. [applause] They rallied around their leadership, which is from them and to them, [applause] and stood as one, confirming by this their mettle, purity, and mature realization of Kuwait's supreme interest. [passage omitted]

Fourth, a few hours after the treacherous Iraqi invasion the political leadership became alert to the Iraqi regime's plan from the moves of its forces and their rapid thrust to the Kuwait city center, and realized that the enemy's objective was at that stage to eliminate the country's leadership and liquidate its symbols and members of its government in order to create a constitutional vacuum which would facilitate its evil objectives and clothe its aggression with false clothes.

But God has saved the day and the government headed by his highness our beloved amir, may God preserve him, and moved them to a secure place. Thus with God's care legitimacy was preserved and the government held a session on the same day and continued to exercise its constitutional powers and authority. It immediately embarked on a widescale political move which includes holding intensive contacts with the heads of state in sister, friendly, and other states. Many visits at various levels were paid to many countries all over the world to explain the sinful aggression and invasion to which our dear homeland was subjected, and in effect to win world support for our just cause. This, dear brothers, was the first failure of the criminal plan drawn up by the sinful Iraqi regime in order to eliminate the political indentity of the State of Kuwait.

Fifth, the government embarked from the first days of the sinful occupation on caring for the living conditions of the citizens who were outside the homeland.

It provided them, as much as possible, with the requirements of a decent life, for them and their families, and it then redoubled its efforts to also include caring for thousands of families who were forced by the Iraqi regime's tyranny to leave the beloved homeland. [passage omitted]

I feel that I must record here my great gratitude to the sister Kingdom of Saudi Arabia [applause] the king, government and people, and to the noble brothers in the other sister members of the Gulf Cooperation Council who opened their hearts, land and homes, to us and stood by us without any limits. [applause] We also can not forget our brothers in the bredth of the Arab and Islamic worlds, foremost the sister Arab Republic of Egypt [applause] for the fraternal care and generous hospitality it has shown toward our people. [passage omitted]

Brothers and noble sons of my homeland, from the first days of the crisis artificially created by the Iraqi regime, and before its premeditated plan to invade and occupy our homeland was implemented, we were eager to solve the dispute created artificially by the Iraqi regime within the Arab framework. At the time we proposed to submit the dispute to an Arab League arbitration committee, but Iraq did not accept our proposal and refused to solve the dispute within the Arab context. It insisted on a bilateral solution in order to impose its will on us.

Then we responded with a fraternal spirit to the noble efforts exerted by brother King Fahd Bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, [applause] and His Excellency brother President Muhammad Husni Mubarak [applause]. We took part with goodwill in the Jeddah meeting with the Iraqi side in an effort to solve the dispute in the Arab context. At that meeting we showed willingness to continue the dialogue with the Iraqi side in Baghdad and then in Kuwait. But the Iraqi regime was not willing to negotiate. Rather it wanted to impose its will on us within a premeditated intention. It was confirmed later that the Iraqi regime was eager to abort all the efforts exerted to solve the dispute. It rushed a few hours after the Jeddah meeting to invade and occupy Kuwait without any warning. Afterward the Iraqi regime insisted on rejecting the Arab solution calling for its withdrawal from Kuwait and the return of its legitimacy. It refused to implement the resolution of the extraordinary Arab summit which was held in Cairo on 10 August. It also insisted on rejecting the Islamic solution by refusing to implement the resolution of the Islamic foreign ministers conference. Then it insisted on rejecting the international solution and refused and continues to refuse to implement the UN Security Council resolutions which condemn the Iraqi regime's aggression against the State of Kuwait, and calls on it to withdraw unconditionally and immediately from all Kuwaiti territory. It declared its support for the legitimate authority of the State of Kuwait. It is regrettable to hear, every now and then, Arab voices presenting to the world proposals and initiatives calling for an Arab solution to the crisis. We say to the authors of these proposals and initiatives that the Arab solution exists, the Islamic solution exists, and the international solution exists. [applause]

Let the Iraqi regime embark on implementing any of these solutions, which are identical and call for a full withdrawal and the return of Kuwaiti legitimacy. If you are sincere in the effort to solve the crisis within the Arab context, why then do you not ask the Iraqi regime to withdraw its forces from Kuwait? And why do you not declare openly your rejection and condemnation of the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait? Does the Arab solution permit that an Arab state commits aggression against another Arab state, occupy its territory and render its people homeless, work to eliminate its political identity

and change its demographic composition by expelling its people and bringing in alternative elements to replace them? Is this the meaning of the Arab solution? Are these the Arab morals, the pan-Arab principles, and Islamic values?

The occupation of Kuwait by the treacherous Iraqi regime is no longer only a Kuwaiti problem, nor a Gulf or Arab problem. Rather it has become an international problem in which the peoples of the whole world stood by us, rejecting the aggression against us, supporting us and defending our right, and massing all their forces to repel the aggression and recover the usurped right to its owners. Although Kuwait is no longer a sole party to the confrontation with the sinful Iraqi aggression, our firm attitude which we have already declared, is based on the following principles:

First, the sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity of the State of Kuwait is an issue not open to negotiations and bargaining. [applause]

Second, we do not accept any solution less than the full implementation of the resolutions of the Cairo extraordinary Arab summit and the UN Security Council which call for the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of Iraqi forces from all the Kuwaiti territory [applause] and confirm their support for the return of the legitimate authority of the State of Kuwait. [applause]

Third, we reserve our right to demand compensation from the Iraqi regime for all the material and moral damage caused to our people and country and all the money it has stolen from Kuwait. [applause]

Fourth, the unconditional withdrawal of the Iraqi forces from all Kuwaiti territory should come before any attempts to settle the dispute artificially created by the Iraqi regime immediately before its aggression against Kuwait, or any other issues which were outstanding between Kuwait and Iraq before the Iraqi invasion of the State of Kuwait. [passage omitted]

National duty dictates to all of us that we should attend to the achievement of one objective: liberation. [applause] Liberation is the supreme demand to which we must all dedicate ourelves and all our energy. Liberation should be the main concern of our thoughts and all our interests, day and night, when we are asleep and when we are awake. And for the sake of liberation and along the road to it there are objectives we must care for in order to reach our supreme objective: the liberation of our homeland from the sinful aggression. They are:

First, backing the steadfastness of our people at home (applause), and the consolidation of their ability to remain on the soil of the homeland, resist occupation and abort the criminal plan aimed at expelling our people from their homes.

Second, the preservation of the interests of our people and meeting their living needs while facing harsh conditions: its security, housing, living conditions, the education of its sons, and caring for its social and health needs.

Third, maintenance of the continuation of Kuwaiti legitimacy [applause] and making the whole world realize that independent Kuwait is still alive, free, and operates as before. And this requires the continuation of political and diplomatic moves and the intensification of the information effort to consolidate our stand and serve our cause which should remain the prime concern of the world until the achievement of liberation, God willing.

Fourth, continuing preparations for military action, whether by our armed forces which have reorganized their ranks and taken their positions among the multinational force, or by their sons of our people who are trained and able to carry arms, for us to be all in the forefront of the forces of liberation. [applause]

Brothers and sons of my homeland, if liberation is our first and last objective in this fateful period of the history of our dear homeland, national unity is our road to liberation and it is our most important and strongest weapon. There is no liberation without national liberation. Let us guard with eagerness our national unity, and let us work for its consolidation and preservation. It is the strong base on which the Kuwait of the future will be built. We will build it together with our thoughts, arms, efforts, devotion, cooperation, and our love for our beloved Kuwait. [applause]

Freedom of expression is a right acknowledged by our society since its creation which was confirmed by our constitution which we uphold. [applause] It is not patriotism, nor freedom of expression, especially in the shadow of the occupation of our land and homeland by an enemy, that will harm our national unity, or work to distort the picture of the struggle of our people. [applause]

We believe in the natural progress of life and that there are numerous lessons which should be learned from the trials of the occupation of our country and our people and from which we are all suffering day in day out.

The political leadership which has always been the nearest thing to the heart of our people and most sensitive to its heart beat and its true feelings will not hesitate to react to our people's hope and respond to their aspiration when our homeland is liberated and we return to our homes. [applause]

Our sought after aims are huge and colossal. When victory is achieved and the occupiers withdrew, Kuwait, which has been defended by the whole Kuwaiti people, will embrace the whole Kuwaiti people. Kuwait will be established within the framework of the 1962 Constitution in order to consolidate democracy [applause]. To consolidate democracy and deepen the people's participation which has been and still is our sought-after aim.

The Kuwiati woman has proved as a mother, sister, wife, daughter, a member of the resistance inside the country and an opponent of the occupation outside, that she is the sister of men. In your name I salute her and praise her. [applause] I am certain that she will be playing a bigger role and contributing more to liberated Kuwait. [applause]

This people, which has written with its blood, its struggle and heroic steadfastness, shining pages in its resistance of aggression by refusing cooperation and deals with the criminal forces of occupation, has given willingly fantastic examples of commitment to its homeland and amir [applause] and leadership. It cannot be compensated for its faithfulness save by more faithfulness [applause] and for its love save by more love [applause] and for its loyalty save by more loyalty. Good deeds should always be met by good deeds.

This meeting's aim, as stipulated by the invitation sent to each of you, is to consult on all matters which might be beneficial to our dear homeland and our noble people and to consolidate our national struggle for the liberation of our dear Kuwait and to expel the aggressors as well as to exchange viewpoints on everything which might be beneficial to the homeland and the citizens in this fateful period in our history.

The leadership has the right and duty to go back to the people to seek guidance from its conscience and help from its assessment of matters as well as to seek consultation and strength from it to continue the march of struggle and liberation. [applause]

Let our hearts meet for the sake of Kuwait's love and let our efforts intercooperate for the sake of its liberation. Let our arms cooperate in lifting the banner of jihad. Let us promise each other in front of almighty God to sacrifice our souls and property to defend our dear Kuwait. [applause] Kuwait of love, of concord, of peace, and of one family which has been usurped by the tyrant aggressors. [passage omitted]

Our people are small in numbers and small in size but have proved that they are big with their faith and great in their determination, firmness and steadfastness. To the steadfast sons of our people in our beloved country [applause] we say: We are always with you with our hearts, thoughts, sentiments, and souls. We are with you every hour and moment. We feel pain for your pains, and suffer from your sufferings. We salute your steadfastness and praise the firmness of your determination, and are proud of your heroic acts and your resistance of the enemy. [passage omitted] God grants victory to whom he wishes. He is the merciful, the compassionate. God has spoken the truth. Peace, God's mercy and blessings be upon you.

Diplomat Predicts Elections, Renewed Democracy

LD1510200790 Prague Television Service in Czech 1830 GMT 15 Oct 90

[Excerpts] It was announced in Jeddah in Saudi Arabia today that the Kuwaiti Government in exile is prepared to talk to the Iraqi Government on all points of mutual conflict, under the condition that Iraqi units withdraw from Kuwait immediately. [passage omitted]

As the Kuwaiti ambassador to Czechoslovakia said today at a meeting with Czechoslovak citizens who recently worked in Kuwait, the results of the conference of Kuwaiti people will not be known until late tonight. Despite this, he described the Jeddah conference as the result of efforts to untie the leadership of the state and the Kuwaiti people. In an interview for Czechoslovak television, he described the decision to renew democratic traditions in Kuwait and the activity of parliament as it was when it was founded in 1962, once the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait has ended, as very significant and important for the future. He described the promise of the amir of Kuwait to hold free elections once the legitimate Kuwaiti government has returned to the country as equally important.

Minister Condemns Palestinian Support for Iraq

LD1210223290 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1754 GMT 12 Oct 90

[Text] Jeddah, 12 Oct (KUNA)—Dr. 'Abd al-Rahim al-'Awadhi, minister of state for the affairs of the Council of Ministers, has expressed his deep regret over the assassination of Dr. Rif'at al-Mahjub, speaker of the Egyptian People's Assembly, this morning in the Egyptian People's Assembly.

At a press conference held today in the conference hall on the sidelines of the activities of the enlarged Kuwaiti People's Congress due to open tomorrow under the patronage of his highness the amir of kuwait, Dr. al-'Awadhi said that the criminal hands that assassinated al-Mahjub do not believe in democracy or dialogue as a road toward the development and progress of our Arab and Islamic nation.

He added that the speaker of the Egyptian people's assembly was a virtuous man who worked seriously and diligently all his life in the service of the fateful causes of our nation, and we deeply regret his assassination today.

Dr al-'Awadhi announced that the legitimate Kuwaiti Government has not, up to this moment, received any signal on the part of the Iraqi regime of its intention to withdraw from Kuwait. He pointed out that all the recent Iraqi statements have always signalled that they will remain, and that they will forcefully stick to their occupation of Kuwait, which has now entered its third month.

He reaffirmed that all Kuwaitis are in one trench in order to liberate our dear homeland from the claws of the Iraqi occupation. At the same time, he stressed that the

People's Congress, the first People's Congress to be held outside the occupied homeland, will restore cohesion and the steadfastness of our people, and it will open up fresh scope for achieving our desired aims: liberating the homeland and restoring legitimacy.

He said that Iran and Kuwait were the first states to be victim to the expansionist whims of the Iraqi regime to realize its greedy ambitions in the Arab Gulf region. He lauded the international position on the side of the right of Kuwait by issuing the UN Security Council resolutions.

Regarding the position of the PLO, Dr. al-'Awadhi said that he was surprised by the position adopted by the Palestinian leadership regarding the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait, all the more that they worked with us and lived on the land of Kuwait that supported the Palestinian cause with all its means. He pointed out that the Kuwaiti people were aware of the position of the Palestinian people which will change its political leadership that has damaged the interests of the Palestinian cause and the Palestinian intifadah.

Dr. al-'Awadhi warned that Arab security and stability was threatened because of Saddam Husayn's obduracy and his ignoring all UN resolutions calling for his immediate withdrawal from Kuwait without any restriction or condition, and the restoration of the legitimate authority there.

He pointed out that the region is moving toward a war whose losses are known only to Almighty God. Dr. al-'Awadhi praised the Kuwaiti people and its heroic position, affirming that in the end Kuwait will remain free and independent despite all the attempts undertaken by the Iraqi regime.

Council of Ministers Condemns Jerusalem Incident

PM1610081290 London AL-QABAS AL-DUWALI in Arabic 11 Oct 90 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Kuwaiti Government Condemns Al-Aqsa Massacre"—formerly Kuwait AL-QABAS AL-DUWALI]

[Text] Al-Ta'if, KUNA—The Kuwaiti Government yesterday condemned the "ugly crime" committed by the Israeli occupation authorities against Palestinian citizens in Jerusalem. In a statement delivered by an authoritative source from the Kuwaiti council of ministers it was said: "The council followed with great concern and interest the reports on the ugly crime committed by the Israeli occupation authorities against Palestinian citizens in Jerusalem and which resulted in many of them being martyred or wounded."

The statement added: "While it emphasizes its condemnation of these actions against innocent citizens, the council regards it as a blatant provocation and defiance of world public opinion and a violation of the sanctity of the holy places."

Paper Compares Al-Aqsa Killings, Invasion

PM1610091090 London AL-QABAS AL-DUWALI in Arabic 12 Oct 90 p 8

[Bukhalid article: "The Same Blood, the Same Killer"—formerly Kuwait AL-QABAS AL-DUWALI]

[Text] The Kuwaiti blood that runs every day and cleanses Kuwait's chaste soil is the same Palestinian blood which flows every day and cleanses the beloved soil of Palestine. Today we Kuwaitis, homeless throughout the world, feel humane and we feel pain and sadness as we hear about the killing of 30 Palestinian martyrs by the Israeli occupation forces' fire in occupied Jerusalem.

We will not say, "You and your God go and fight but we remain here." What we said in the past, say now, and will say in the future is that Palestinian blood is the same as Kuwaiti blood, both defending the honor of their land and their right to a free and dignified life, both defending their violated honor and their humanity and usurped rights.

The big difference is in the identity of the aggressor. There in the land of Palestine, there are Israeli killers. There in Kuwait, the Iraqi soldier is killing his Kuwaiti brother who had lived peacefully in his country and extended a supporting and aiding hand to his Iraqi brother throughout the eight years of that unjust war. Both the Israelis and the Iraqis are unjust killers.

God in heaven, 30 Palestinians have been felled by occupation bullets without all Kuwait moving to condemn that.

Do the brothers in the Palestinian leadership remember the role played by Kuwait when such incidents occurred in the past? Don't the souls of the 30 Palestinian martyrs who fell a few days ago arouse indignation and a sense of guilt over the official Palestinian attitude toward the invasion and occupation of Kuwait and the looting and the murder of thousands of Kuwaitis?

Are the Kuwaiti people not entitled to feel sorry and bitter because they are unable to express their feelings of sympathy for our brothers in the occupied territory as they did before the Iraqi invasion and occupation of Kuwait?

It is human nature, dear readers, and it is a question of honesty with one's self. Some minds and souls in the PLO leadership have been frozen and are deprived of feelings while Kuwaitis feel pain for the spilled blood of our Palestinian brothers. The end is the same: Kuwaiti martyrs embracing Palestinian martyrs in heaven.

Kuwait Petroleum, Aramco Sign Contract

NC1510175890 Paris AFP in English 1426 GMT 15 Oct 90

[Text] Nicosia, Oct 15 (AFP)—Kuwait Petroleum International (KPI), a subsidiary of the Kuwait Petroleum

Corporation (KPC), has signed a term contract with the Saudi Arabian oil company Aramco to offset the loss of crude oil supplies from Kuwait, the Middle East Economic Survey [MEES] said Monday.

"KPI's crude requirements for its own refineries (in Rotterdam, Denmark and Naples) and processing arrangements in Europe are currently running at around 290,000 barrels a day [b/d])," said the Nicosia-based newsletter.

"Of this, 185,000 b/d is being covered by a term contract with Saudi Aramco," MEES said, adding that the rest was bought on the spot market.

According to the newsletter KPI was also buying "on a spot and short-term contract basis 55,000-60,000 b/d of clean products—naphtha for reforming, gas oil and gasoline—to service its product marketing network."

Elsewhere MEES said the KPC could no longer respect its engagements to Italy owing to the interruption of exports from Kuwait in the aftermath of the August 2 invasion by Iraq.

The KPC had a term contract with Italy to supply it with 1.5 million tonnes a year (about 30,000 b/d) of high sulfur fuel oil, MEES said.

KUNA Announces Resumption of Service From London

NC1310163090 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 13 Oct 90

[Text] The Kuwaiti News Agency [KUNA] began regular transmission from its temporary headquarters in the British capital of London today for the first time [as heard] since its permanent headquarters in Kuwait was seized in the wake of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait on 2 August.

KUNA issued a statement saying that it will resume its previous work for the sake of honest, honorable reporting and Kuwaiti and Arab rights.

Oman

Sultan Sends Condolence Cable to Mubarak

NC1310195690 Muscat Sultanate of Oman Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 13 Oct 90

[Text] His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id has sent a cable of condolences to his brother His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak of Egypt on the assassination of Dr. Rif'at al-Mahjub, People's Assembly speaker of the Arab Republic of Egypt. Here is the text of that cable:

His Excellency brother President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt—Cairo. We have been distressed by the news of the heinous attack in which People's Assembly Speaker Dr. Rif'at al-Mahjub and some of his escort were killed. We share with you and the Egyptian people the same sense of grief and loss for that tragedy. This heinous attack is a hideous crime against innocent people and an assault on human values and principles. We implore God to grant him mercy and count him among the martyrs who have sacrificed their lives for their religion and homeland. We implore God to grant his family patience and strength. May God listen to our prayers.

[Signed] Your brother, Qabus Bin-Sa'id

Qatar

French Foreign Minister Arrives 15 Oct

JN1510084790 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0616 GMT 15 Oct 90

[Text] Doha, 15 Oct (WAKH)—French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas arrived in Doha this morning on a one-day visit to the State of Qatar within the framework of a tour of a number of countries in the region. He was received on arrival by Qatari Foreign Minister Mubarak Ibn-'Ali al-Khatir and the French Ambassador in Doha Pierre Ariola.

Received by Amir

JN1510114490 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1010 GMT 15 Oct 90

[Text] Manama, 15 Oct (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, amir of Qatar, received French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas this morning. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Mubarak Bin-'Ali al-Khatir, French Ambassador in Doha Pierre Ariola, and the accompanying delegation.

QATARI NEWS AGENCY said that the talks dealt with the developments in the Gulf crisis resulting from the Iraqi invasion of the State of Kuwait and its regional and international dimensions.

The French foreign minister explained his country's stand vis-a-vis the crisis. This stand is represented by the full implementation of the resolutions issued by the Security Council with complete adherence to the embargo imposed on Iraq to force it to withdraw from Kuwait and to submit to the international community, as well as the return of the legitimate authority to Kuwait represented by its amir, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah.

The news agency added that the talks also dealt with the Arab-Israeli conflict and the need to give momentum to international efforts to reach a just settlement of the problem that guarantees the national legitimate rights of the Palestinian people through the convening of a UN-sponsored international conference.

The conferees also reviewed the situation in Lebanon and the efforts aimed at achieving national reconciliation and spreading legitimacy throughout its territory after the surrender of Michel 'Awn, and the restoration of security and stability in this sisterly Arab country.

The two sides also discussed methods to strengthen and reinforce relations of cooperation and friendship between Qatar and France in various fields.

Qatari Foreign Minister Mubarak Bin-'Ali al-Khatir also met with French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas and the accompanying delegation now on a visit to Qatar. During the meeting they discussed relations between the two countries and ways to reinforce and develop them. They also discussed the developments in the Gulf.

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Interviewed, Defends Stance on Crisis

LD1310153990 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1113 GMT 13 Oct 90

[Text] Jeddah 13 Oct (SPA)—The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud has affirmed that the criticism of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for allowing the deployment of foreign forces is merely part of dubious campaign whose aim is to cover up facts and justice and not face up to the main cause for asking fraternal and friendly forces to assist the Saudi armed forces in their defensive task.

This came in an interview published jointly by the Japanese [word indistinct] SHIMBUN and the [Saudi] AL-BILAD today, Saturday.

He said, may God protect him: As far as the holy places are concerned they are in secure hands. All Muslims who visit them know this very well.

The custodian of the two holy mosques described the Iraqi invasion of the State of Kuwait as "a flagrant violation of international order," adding, "it also manifests a dangerous and aggressive attitude which is contrary to all humanitarian norms, particularly at this stage of world history which is characterized by optimism given the current tolerance and harmony toward more peace and justice, a matter which can render humanity as a whole much happier and more innovative in order to bring about a better future and a better life."

The beloved king pointed out that it is not strange that the whole world has stood up as one man with all legitimate means against aggression, to defeat the aggressor and made him retreat without deriving any benefit from his aggression.

The custodian of the two holy mosques asserted that such a serious stance reflects a firm intention to safeguard security, peace, and international legitimacy. "Proceeding from this point of view, the international community will continue its pressures within the framework of the UN Security Council resolutions until Kuwaiti legitimacy regains its natural and fruitful role."

Replying to a question about oil, the custodian of the two holy mosques said that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabi announced from the outset the need to increase the production quotas to compensate for the shortage brought about by the boycott of Iraqi and Kuwaiti oil following the invasion. The custodian of the two holy mosques added: The kingdom is seeking to prevent a sharp increase in oil prices. This orientation has been successful thanks to the subsequent gradual increase in oil production. Had it not been for such a step prices would have increased dramatically, and this would have been unbearable, particularly for developing countries which have been facing financial difficulties.

King Fahd Bin 'Abd al-'Aziz stressed that the increase in oil prices was due to consumers' fears. Things are now moving downward and will gradually reach a reasonable level that will meet the interests of sellers and the buyers alike.

The custodian of the two holy mosques described French President Francois Mitterrand as one of the world's unique leaders who is exerting praiseworthy efforts to resolve current problems, in a bid that the world will avoid worse repercussions, including the Gulf crisis which has harmed the march of humanity following Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd-Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, expressed his happiness at His Excellency President Mitterand's recent visit to the kingdom.

He added: It was a good opportunity to discuss with his excellency and hold consultations about a number of issues, some of which concern the full commitment to do everything possible according to the UN Security Council resolutions which detail the need for restoring legitimacy to Kuwait as a basic condition for respecting international legitimacy.

Regarding the complete change in the political situation in the whole world after the end of the Cold War, the king pointed out that the rapid changes in the world are characterized by understanding and rationalism, and in fact they call for optimism about a more prosperous future in which the international community will be happier. He pointed out that Saudi Arabia, as one of the peace-loving countries, feels quite satisfied with every constructive step.

The custodian of the two holy mosques continued: From this starting point we hasten to bless the new era, and we translated that into practical steps which include our efforts through the IMF and the World Bank, in addition to what we have done in the field of establishing diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union and the PRC, as friendly countries, which is compatible with the new reality on the horizon.

The custodian of the two holy mosques stressed that Saudi Arabia, which believes in God and destiny, has never and will never fall into despair. He said: Therefore, we work relentlessly and continuously, together with all the fraternal countries which understand the truth—and they form the majority, toward closing the Arab ranks. In this we rely on the constructive fraternal dialogue which will inevitably lead to the fulfillment the cherished result.

The king thanked the Japanese leadership and people for their supportive stance toward a peaceful solution of the Gulf problem. He said: All we hope for is that this positive role will continue and that the coordination with the quarters concerned will continue in order to push forward the plans aimed at ending the invasion, restoring legitimacy, and withdrawing the Iraqi troops from the borders of Saudi Arabia within the framework of the UN Security Council's resolutions.

Cabinet Meets To Discuss Gulf Situation

LD1510195790 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 15 Oct 90

[Excerpts] His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, crown prince, deputy prime minister, and commander of the National Guard, chaired today's cabinet meeting at al-Salam palace in Jeddah.

Following the meeting, Information Minister 'Ali al-Sha'in, in a statement to SPA, said: The cabinet first reviewed the political and military reports concerning the conditions in the Arabian Gulf and the Arab area in general, and fresh developments in the last few days, especially concerning the aftermath of the criminal Israeli aggression against the sanctity of the al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem. The attack resulted in the martyrdom of over 30 person, and hundreds of other casualties of the sons of the fraternal Palestinian people. In this connection the council again voiced its deep pain and profound regret and its denunciation of this abominable crime, which the world unanimously agrees was grave and barbarous, a flagrant challenge to Islamic public opinion, and violated the sanctity of the holy places. [passage omitted]

The council expressed the appreciation of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, under the leadership of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, for the speeches by the amir of the State of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah; the heir apparent and prime minister of Kuwait, Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al- Salim al-Sabah; and the numerous speakers at the opening of the Kuwaiti popular conference on the role played by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, along with its brothers in the Arab and Islamic states and its friends, in supporting the fraternal state of Kuwait. [passage omitted]

The Council denounces malicious media campaigns by certain hateful quarters for aims that are no longer concealed from anyone. The Council recommended that they should not be emulated, in accordance with the directives of the custodian of the two holy mosques, while the Saudi media should continue to explain the facts to public opinion when the evildoers try to obscure facts by fabricating lies which have become exposed to everyone. [passage omitted]

United Arab Emirates

Iran's Besharati Delivers Condolences to Dubai

LD1510101690 Tehran IRNA in English 0843 GMT 15 Oct 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Oct. 15, IRNA—Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati currently in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) met with the ruler of Dubai Shaykh Maktum Bin-Rashid late on Sunday [14 October].

During the meeting, Besharati submitted President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani's message of condolences on the occasion of the demise of the former ruler Shaykh Rashid Bin-Sa'id al-Maktum.

Besharati also extended the sympathy of the government and Muslim nation of Iran on the occasion.

Yemen

Salih Statement on 14 Oct Revolution Anniversary

JN1310193990 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 13 Oct 90

["Statement" by Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, Presidential Council chairman, on the 27th anniversary of the 14 October Revolution—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful: Thanks be to God, the lord of all the universe, and peace be upon His faithful messenger. Esteemed citizens, sons of our Yemeni people in the homeland and abroad, in my name and on behalf of the brother members of the Presidential Council, I am pleased to greet you with the greeting of revolution, Republic, and unity on this national anniversary that is dear to all of us—the 27th anniversary of the glorious 14 October Revolution—which we celebrate after the strategic objective of the Yemeni revolutions of 26 September and 14 October were achieved by reunifying the Yemeni homeland through the efforts of all sincere Yemeni people under one flag, one national anthem, and one Yemeni leadership.

The greatness of the 14 October Revolution, whose first spark started in the lofty Ghayfan Mountains against British colonialism and the sultans, and which started the armed struggle to liberate the land and man, stems from the fact that it has managed to expand the front of struggle against colonialism and its agents. It also provided an example that must be followed on strengthening the internal front and offered thousands of martyrs from among all the sons of our Yemeni people, who stood in our trench to launch the 26 September and 14 October revolutions to end the imamite tyranny and get rid of colonialism. It achieved independence for our people and united the southern part of the beloved homeland, which was fragmented by colonialism and its

agents into 22 sultanates, emirates, and shaykhdoms; and, thus, bolstered the victory of the immortal Yemeni revolution.

Masses of our struggling people, having acquired the bases for strength and glory by the establishment of the Republic of Yemen, the revolution is nowadays better able to forge ahead to realize all of its objectives and fulfill the Yemeni masses' ambitions. Its militant and heroic march will continue to give lessons for the generations on how to maintain the revolution and Republic, entrench national unity, and defend Yemeni unity.

On this occasion, allow me to extend hearty, sincere congratulations to all sons of our Yemeni people and their valiant Armed Forces and security forces; to urge everyone to be more cautious and vigilant to face the enemies of the revolution, the Republic, and Yemeni unity; and to pay tribute on this glorious day to all martyrs of the Yemeni revolutions of 26 September and 14 October, all martyrs of the national struggle, and all those who sacrificed to guarantee the triumph of our people's will revolution, freedom, unity, and democracy. I renew the pledge that we will continue to march on the path of the revolution and continue the struggle for its sake, adhere to its noble principles and objectives, and be loyal to the blood of martyrs and their great sacrifices.

I also take this opportunity to give warm welcome to the return of brother Yemeni expatriates to their homeland, to stress that they will receive from the state and government all care and attention to enable them to contribute to the building of the homeland, just as they contributed when they were abroad toward the process of comprehensive development, and to say that the Yemeni homeland has room for everyone. Here, I urge the government once more to offer every facility to the brother expatriates, resolve their problems, and remove all obstacles facing those returning from abroad.

Sons of our people and Arab nation, while celebrating one of our people's national occasions, we must remember the serious situations our Arab nation is passing through, and which constitute a flagrant threat to its security and safety as a result of the foreign military presence in the Gulf and the Arabian Peninsula, the like of which has not been seen since the end of World War II. We must also remember the complications in the crisis in the Gulf and the obstacles against the possibility of an Arab solution. In light of these serious conditions, we see the Zionist enemy practicing the ugliest forms of murder and repression against the Palestinian Arab people and desecrating the first qiblah and the third holiest mosques, while our Arab nation's position on this major tragedy and ugly crime reflects the state of fragmentation and division in the Arab arena.

The world community, represented by the United Nations and the Security Council, which took itself upon itself to protect international peace and security, is still looking around for special standards to apply on this issue as a result of the intransigence on the part of some UN Security Council permanent members. Therefore, the resolution, denouncing the ugly Zionist crime in Holy Jerusalem and calling for a committee to investigate facts in the occupied Arab territories and to prepare specific proposals to protect the Palestinians in the holy lands, has not been issued. This resolution does not call for moving fleets, deploying missiles, or massing thousands of soldiers from all over the world. Six days have passed since the Zionist massacre against the Palestinians, and the UN Security Council has not issued any resolution to denounce this crime. Here we renew our appeal to the world community to deal with all forms of conflict, tension, occupation, and the violation of sovereignty on the same basis and according to constant ethical, political, and legal criteria. If this is not done, then justice, freedom, equality, and rights of sovereignty and independence, which all peoples of the world desire, will continue to be subjected to the control of narrow-minded interests, and only to be enjoyed by the strong while the weak are deprived.

Brother citizens, on this occasion we stress that we in the Republic of Yemen will continue to be loyal to our Arab nation's causes, concerned for its security and safety, and determined to support the Palestinian revolution and the Palestinian Arab people's struggle until they seize a clear victory and establish their state on their soil, God willing.

Finally, I congratulate you once again on this occasion, wishing everyone success to serve the homeland, people, and revolution. I beseech God Almighty to bless the souls of the pure martyrs and to grant them His paradise and to guide our steps for what will bring good, progress, and prosperity to our country.

Long live the revolution and Republic. Glory to our militant Yemeni people. Peace be upon you.

Saddam Meets Spanish Delegation; Allows Departure

JN1310195490 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 13 Oct 90

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn received today the Spanish peace messengers delegation led by Spanish Congress of Deputies member Cristina Almeida, who voiced the Spanish people's solidarity with Iraq in confronting the economic blockade that is being imposed by the United States and its allies. She said that any aggression against the Iraqi people will be viewed as aggression against the international community, that she will convey Iraq's peace message to the Spanish people and the European countries, and that the delegation will work as soon as possible as peace strugglers to ward off the specter of war from the region.

Leader President Saddam Husayn expressed his pleasure and appreciation for the noble sentiments voiced by Cristina Almeida and her delegation. His excellency also expressed appreciation for the work of the delegation as a peace messenger to ward off the specter of war from the region. He praised the friendly relations between the Iraqi and Spanish peoples based on profound human and historical backgrounds and said that these relations should be further promoted in harmony with the present age and whatever new this age adds.

The leader president responded favorably to Cristina Almeida's request to allow the 15 Spanish nationals to leave or stay in Iraq, as they wish, and that Mrs. Almeida can accompany them on board an Iraqi passenger plane, if they wish it.

Mrs. Almeida and her delegation praised the leader president's initiative highly and expressed her thanks and gratitude and those of her delegation to his excellency. She said that President Saddam Husayn struggles for peace and that the Spanish nationals, who are allowed by his excellency to leave or stay, will return to Iraq once again as peace messengers. The meeting was attended by 'Adnan Dawud Salman, chairman of the Friendship, Peace, and Solidarity Organization in Iraq.

'Peace Messengers' Leave

JN1510162190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1541 GMT 15 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Oct (INA)—The delegation of Spanish peace messengers led by Spanish MP Mrs. Cristina Almeida left Baghdad this afternoon following a 12-day visit to Iraq.

In a statement to INA, the Spanish MP expressed her thanks and gratitude to President Saddam Husayn on his initiative to allow 15 Spanish nationals the freedom to leave or stay in Iraq.

She said: President Saddam Husayn's initiative is the Iraqi people's peace and friendship gift to the Spanish people. The Spanish nationals will be the messengers of peace in their country and will employ all their abilities to prevent the outbreak of war in the Arab region.

She expressed her admiration for the construction and cultural development being witnessed by Iraq, and stressed that she is carrying a clear peace message against war and will seek, along with the accompanying delegation, to prevent the destruction of this noble country's great development and genuine civilization.

Spanish Nationals Depart

JN1510161490 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1539 GMT 15 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Oct (INA)—Following orders by His Excellency President Saddam Husayn, a number of Spanish nationals hosted by Iraq have been allowed to travel to their country or remain in Iraq, if they so wish.

Fifteen of the Spaniards left Iraq this afternoon, accompanied by Spanish MP Mrs. Cristina Almeida.

Interviewed by INA, the Spaniards expressed their thanks and gratitude for the hospitality and care they have received from the Iraqi Government and people throughout their stay.

Officials React to Reports of Partial Withdrawal

Jasim Denies Reports

JN1510114990 Baghdad INA in English 1105 GMT 15 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, Oct.15, INA—Iraq restated on Sunday that it would never withdraw from Kuwait, denying a Soviet news report it might be content with just an oilfield and islands controlling its access to the Gulf.

"There is no room for any compromise about Kuwait," Information and Culture Minister Mr. Latif Nusayyif Jasim told reporters.

The semi-official Soviet NOVOSTI news agency said President Saddam Husayn had raised the possibility of a partial withdrawal at talks in Baghdad last weekend with senior Soviet Envoy Yevgeniy Primakov.

"That is not precise," Jasim said when asked about the NOVOSTI report.

"Kuwait is the 19th province of Iraq and this fact will not be changed whatsoever even if we fight a long war for that."

Mr. Jasim said the only basis for resolving the Gulf crisis was an August 12 initiative by President Saddam Husayn which linked a settlement to resolving the Arab-Israeli conflict and other Middle East problems.

Mr. Jasim said the initiative was made on the basis that Kuwait is part of Iraq forever.

The minister said he continued to believe war in the Gulf was imminent but that Iraq would not fire the first shot.

"We expect the war at any moment and we are ready to fight against the Americans and those who come with them," he added.

He described as a threat of war a statement on Sunday by British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd that President Husayn could be "forced out" of Kuwait "at the point of a gun" if he did not withdraw of his own free will.

"We are not afraid of war and we are not afraid of Hurd's statements. He makes such statements because he is not going to fight personally. Other Britons, Americans and other nationalities will die in this war," he said.

Mr. Jasim said the U.N. trade embargo was hurting Iraq industrially and depriving it of food but it would not force Iraqis into submission.

"We will not kneel down to the U.S. even if we starve for 20 years," he added.

Meanwhile, INA international affairs editor on Sunday also denied reports on partial withdrawal from Kuwait and said that such reports were sheer lies and baseless, and those propagating them were known and their objectives were known too.

The agency stressed Iraq's firm position that Kuwait is part of Iraq and that the fact it was severed from Iraq by colonialists has become known through documents.

The INA editor added that talk about withdrawal from Kuwait is but an illusion haunting the minds of the ill-reputed who stand against the will of the Iraqi people and their legitimate inalienable rights.

The editor affirmed that Iraq would not withdraw from its territory for which it offers dear sacrifices and that the Iraqis would defend it with life and property.

Primakov Reportedly 'Displeased'

JN1510194790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1900 GMT 15 Oct 90

[Text] Moscow, 15 Oct (INA)—Yevgeniy Primakov, USSR Presidential Council member, has denied the information published yesterday by the Soviet newspaper RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA citing the Soviet news agency NOVOSTI, which contained details about his talks with the Iraqi leadership.

The INA correspondent has learned from a source very close to the Presidential Council member that Primakov is very much displeased with the inaccurate information published by the newspaper citing the agency, asserting that neither Primakov nor any one of his close associates has any connection with the information published by the newspaper.

The INA correspondent explained that Primakov thinks that whoever is circulating these rumors and information does not want peace in the Middle East, noting that Primakov asked the newspaper chief editor to deny these allegations.

NOVOSTI yesterday disseminated through the newspaper RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA a report that the Iraqi leadership might withdraw Iraqi forces from Kuwait in return for keeping the southern al-Rumaylah field and Warbah and Bubiyan islands and an outlet to the sea, which was denied by the INA international affairs editor.

Soviet Commentator Details Primakov Mission

PM1510132390 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 11 Oct 90 p 13

[Article by Soviet commentator Igor Belyayev: "Primakov's Secret Mission in Baghdad"]

[Text] The main aim of the visit to Baghdad by Yevgeniy Primakov, personal envoy of the Soviet president and Presidential Council member, was to hold some meetings in the Iraqi capital. On his way to Baghdad the Soviet envoy stopped over in Amman to meet with King Husayn and Yasir 'Arafat.

How and when did Moscow begin to consider sending an envoy to Baghdad? The idea emerged after Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal's visit to Moscow. The Saudi guest discussed with Mikhail Gorbachev and other Soviet officials (including Yevgeniy Primakov, of course) several issues including the "Arab aspect" of the Gulf events, and particularly the grave consequences if war broke out there.

Everything of extreme importance was taken into consideration in order to grasp the significance of the events. Both sides, in my view, proceeded from the premise that whatever the political atmosphere, the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait could not be accepted, that Saddam Husayn's "hostage war" against the whole world could not be ignored, and that the legitimate al-Sabah regime should be restored. Furthermore, the Soviet Union could not just sit with folded arms and watch the Gulf events because the region is situated in direct proximity to its southern border. It should also be remembered that the Soviet Union has major interests in the entire Arab world.

Also taken into consideration was the fact that the Arab world was divided, with 10 Arab League members, including the PLO, taking pro-Iraq positions to some varying degrees. Some Arabs see Saddam Husayn as the only symbol of military and political power capable of facing Israel. That is why the Soviet president regarded as very important Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal's arguments in favor of settling the Gulf dispute as soon as possible, but the central question is: How can the crisis be resolved?

Diplomatic and political means are being used at this stage in the conflict, and Primakov's mission was yet another attempt to persuade Saddam Husayn and his aides to agree to a compromise political solution.

Why was Primakov chosen as the Soviet president's special envoy?

1. Mikhail Gorbachev trusts Primakov.

2. Primakov knows the Middle East and its problems well. He studied at the Moscow Institute of Oriental Studies (where I was a colleague of his) and he has spent many years in Arab countries.

3. Primakov knows Arabic and has a rich experience of communication with senior Arab politicians. For example, he has met with King Husayn scores of times.

4. Primakov knows the personality of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. That, to be honest, was the most important reason why he was chosen as envoy to Baghdad. Frankness is very important in the discussion of a unique case which has surfaced at the most critical juncture in the history of mankind since World War II.

5. Finally, Primakov now holds an official post in the management of the Soviet state and is one of the most active members of the Presidential Council. He studies all important issues of international relations, especially U.S.-Soviet relations. He has participated in almost all the U.S.-Soviet summit meetings, including the Helsinki meeting which focused on whether or not there should be war in the Gulf.

I want to emphasize that we, all the Arabs, and the rest of the world, including the United States, are today following the efforts being exerted by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev. He is undoubtedly in constant touch with President Bush for the settlement of the Gulf dispute, provided such a settlement is achieved without resort to any kind of arms.

Primakov went to Baghdad primarily to persuade Saddam Husayn to restore the situation which existed until 1 August 1990. In my view, it is not easy to convince Saddam Husayn of anything. At any rate, Primakov made him understand that his position was very difficult, if not critical.

As regards the details of the Baghdad talks, they will be made available to me, but what I have now is an analysis based on the military and political facts.

One issue Primakov raised during his meeting with Saddam Husayn was that of the return home of the Soviet military experts and technicians still in Iraq. Saddam Husayn said they could go to the Soviet Union and that there was no objection to that. This is of the utmost importance because it indicates that Saddam Husayn listened to his interlocutor.

Primakov is known to have delivered a message from Mikhail Gorbachev to the Iraqi president. It must be mentioned here that Saddam Husayn showed interest in that message. He read it as soon as Primakov handed it to him, although he did go to occupied Kuwait before the Soviet envoy's arrival as if to show that he had not abandoned the language of threats.

What about the results of Primakov's talks with King Husayn and Yasir 'Arafat? The first believes that it is very important to understand the events related to the Gulf crisis. Yasir 'Arafat criticized the Soviet position after the meeting with the Soviet president's envoy.

The meeting between Yevgeniy Primakov and Iraqi Foreign minister Tariq 'Aziz was certainly interesting. They know each other well. When they met in the past to exchange views on important issues, each has tried to understand the other. Hence, the current Iraqi attempts to justify every step they take.

What did Primakov take back to Moscow? He at least carried with him the answer to the essential question: What does Saddam Husayn intend to do tomorrow about the future of the state of Kuwait and the prospects of a settlement of the Gulf crisis? Primakov says there is a chance for a peaceful settlement of the Kuwait problem, while others speak of war.

Was Primakov's mission useful? Yes, it was very useful because Moscow now knows what step Saddam Husayn is likely to take tomorrow.

Of no less importance is the fact that, as a result of the Soviet envoy's visit to Baghdad, Moscow now has a more accurate idea of the characteristics of the "Arab factor."

Paper Says Kuwait Remains 'Theater of Operations'

JN1610101290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0715 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Oct (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has asserted that the people and soil of Kuwait are Iraqi and that we would not relinquish Kuwait even if we have to fight for a thousand years.

The paper adds that this is our final decision which is defended by the entire nation and guarded by more than six million Iraqi fighters of the glorious people and victorious army, the army of the two al-Qadisiyahs, which only knows victory, and which upholds the slogan of victory and martyrdom for victory.

In its editorial today, the newspaper notes the inspection tour made recently by President Saddam Husayn to the Governorate of Kuwait.

The newspaper adds: Kuwait will remain, until further notice, a theater of operations, and a jungle guarded by gun muzzles and manly arms. It also says that Kuwait is ready—in fact, it is at the peak of readiness—like all Iraqi lands, and will only become the fire which will burn invaders and covetous people. The fire is one of strength and wrath; it is the fire of the right which was restored, and which emerged victorious and told the glad tidings to Jerusalem and defined with it and through it the single objective of the crucial battle of the Arabs, so as to achieve all the objectives of the nation, and so as to inflict defeat on all the enemies of the nation, their armies, their racist Zionist entity and the thrones of treason.

The paper goes on to say: Exacting our rights, clinging to our victories, liberating our sanctities and Jerusalem,

and building our unity are our objectives and banners which flutter over the sea of Arab fighters and revolutionaries. As for the banner of occupation and aggression and agents, it is merely the cloth made by Bush—the cloth which chose the sleazy, corrupt Croesus as its slogan. It was transformed by U.S. imperialism, through its media, hypocrisy, and double standards, into a cover to hide the return of occupation, invasion, and the lusts and schemes of control and plunder—accursed be the cover and the cloth made by the invaders on the muzzles of their rifles.

AL-THAWARAH adds: Iraqi power has dealt a blow to the schemes of invasion and harmfulness. Iraqi brave action and initiatives, moreover, smashed the symbol of colonialist will and imperialist conspiratorial tool. Iraq has once more retuned united from Zakho to the sea. To those who have not paid heed to Arab awakening and are still using political and military language recorded by their old colonialist ancestors—to those and to their agents who are attending the funeral of Croesus—we remind them of the inspection tour made by the leader of victory and master of confrontation, two weeks ago to the theater of Kuwait—yes, the Kuwaiti theater of operations.

Hammadi Interviewed on Crisis Developments

Comments on Blockade

JN1510155890 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 13 Oct 90 p 5

[Interview with Dr. Sa'dun Hammadi, Revolution Command Council member, deputy prime minister, and chairman of the Economic Committee, by Sabah Nahi—date, place unspecified]

[Text] [Nahi] This interview is taking place under the siege imposed on Iraq. So, we have to start the dialogue from this point: How can our people confront the current economic blockade, especially if it lasts a long time, and is there any new concept of how the blockade should be confronted on the local, Arab, and international levels?

[Hammadi] The first thing I would like to say is that any talk that Iraq has not been harmed by the blockade is untrue. Such talk would be unreasonable. In fact, we have been harmed by the blockade. However, what should be stressed is that the responsibility for the damage afflicting Iraq lies with the United States and its Western allies. The blockade is designed to halt the development process, and halting development in a country that believes in scientific development is a big issue, because it is related to the standard of living and the future of the Iraqi masses. Therefore, the United States and its Western allies are responsible for that severe damage inflicted on our national economy. It is clear that this act breaches the UN Charter and conflicts with the aims of Third World development. What the United States is doing through the United Nations is an act against the spirit and the letter of the Charter. In addition to halting development, the human services we provide to our people, such as education, teaching, and industry, will also be harmed, and they are actually harmed as a result of the economic blockade. The best evidence is that public health and the health of children in particular are exposed to the dangers of diseases, malnutrition, and a shortage of education and teaching. The United States and its Western allies are responsible, and every party that yielded to pressure and personal interests and participated in this campaign is also morally and ethically responsible for the damage inflicted on us. However, we cannot surrender, out of self-defense, to such damage. In fact, we have to resist. Comprehensive resistance should begin to minimize the effects of the damage through self-reliance, maximizing agricultural production, and providing for needs through local resources. The United States and its allies and every party that responded to that are responsible for the damage inflicted on our national economy and the life of our people. The reaction will be resistance rather than surrender. Large-scale agricultural development will minimize the damage. Through determination, effort, and persistence, we will succeed.

[Nahi] What are the prospects for development at this stage, and has Iraq halted its development plan under the pressure of the crisis?

[Hammadi] Development at this stage is development of self-defense. This means provision of food and other basic needs on the civilian side of the issue, and meeting the needs of defense and the Armed Forces, on the military side, in the best way possible. Therefore, all development efforts at this stage have been readjusted and reorganized on this basis. Undoubtedly, this does not mean halting the long-term development process, which is not directly linked with the goals I have mentioned. This is an exceptional situation, but we are obliged to deal with it. There are many differences between this development plan and the other plans under ordinary circumstances.

[Nahi] Numerous measures have been taken to activate the agricultural sector, since it is at the core of Iraq's ability to hold fast at the current stage. How do you assess the agricultural sector's response to the measures that have been adopted, especially for the next winter season? Can we say that there is a possibility for achieving a certain level of self-sufficiency in basic, strategic crops?

[Hammadi] All signs indicate that there is a large-scale response to the current development efforts in the agricultural sector. There have been two reasons for this success. The first is that financial incentives for increasing production have been provided, such as increasing the prices of basic crops. Other financial incentives include reducing the prices of seeds, fertilizer, and everything related to agricultural mechanization. In addition, administrative restrictions curbing the private sector's ability to increase production have been removed. We have taken major steps in this field within a short period of time. Moreover, there is the national

enthusiasm factor, which is very important, because it is related to the morale of the peasants and all those who work in agriculture. We make use of both individual and national incentives, because we believe that both factors should be made available to achieve the highest increase in production. All signs so far indicate that there is a large-scale response among workers in the agricultural sector. Therefore, we expect a great response and success in the achievement of the aspired objectives. The core of these objectives is the achievement of self-sufficiency in cereals as a minimum requirement. Some say we are going beyond this objective, and that agriculture will expand not with regard to cereals only, but also other products. All this is possible and will be clear within the next period. However, what we are sure of now is that there is a large-scale and voluntary response by the peasants to increase the cultivated area and, consequently, production. I will not discuss here the measures that have been adopted, since they are known and have been declared. These measures are numerous and are aimed at achieving these objectives. These measures cover prices, ways of using the state-owned lands, and the lifting of the administrative and legal restrictions on the agricultural sector. The measures are known and declared. I must remark here that we are trying to encourage creativity among agricultural specialists in the invention of new methods and production techniques to help replace imported materials with local ones. For example, good progress has been achieved in the field making new fodder for livestock using basic materials based on non-cereal local products not needed for human consumption. We are about to develop an alternative to this basic material. There have been numerous suggestions, some of which will be useful for achieving such purposes.

[Nahi] Some say that in the next season, Iraq will be able to export an agricultural surplus. What do you think?

[Hammadi] This is possible. If this takes place, we will not export before the end of the crisis. Iraq will maintain every human foodstuff to defend itself. It is possible that production may exceed local needs.

[Nahi] There have been reports on offers by industrial and commercial companies to supply Iraq with medicines and foodstuffs through a third party. How true are these reports?

[Hammadi] This is not true. As far as intentions are concerned, I am sure that most companies and commercial individual and collective establishments are willing to break the embargo and to continue profitable businesses. However, these establishment are currently subject to pressure by their governments, which are also subject to pressure by the United States and its Western allies. As for intentions, yes, there are strong intentions, but I think the implementation of these wishes is not possible for the reasons I mentioned. We are working on the basis of self-reliance only. Our plan takes into consideration no materials from abroad.

[Nahi] Leader President Saddam Husayn has repeatedly proposed the establishment of an international fund to help developing countries that were hurt by increasing oil prices. He also put forward initiatives concerning high inflation rates in the capitalist countries, and other issues. Are current circumstances appropriate for such initiatives? And what was the response to them?

[Hammadi] When the president makes proposals, he means that Iraq must certainly be a main contributor; he does not mean that others should implement the proposals while Iraq stays aloof. Therefore, I naturally believe that the president wants his proposals to be implemented when Iraq is experiencing a normal situation, not the current extraordinary situation. I expect that after the crisis has been resolved, Iraq will play more active role in consolidating the various Arab funds by increasing their capital and facilitating their activity. The oil-producing countries will increase their financial assistance to poor Arab countries with a view to achieving radical transformation in the process of Arab wealth distribution. The poor Arab countries have rights to the oil wealth, which is centered in certain Arab countries merely by geographic coincidence. After the unification of Kuwait and Iraq, the latter's financial capability has increased, and out of its principles, Iraq is expected to play a more active role in this regard.

[Nahi] Iraq put forward a positive and humanitarian initiative when it proposed supplying the needy developing countries with free Iraqi oil. How many requests have you received? And how can this proposal be implemented to the advantage of the developing world?

[Hammadi] Here, there is also a difference between the desire and the realization of this desire. I strongly believe that perhaps all Third World countries, and even other countries not belonging to the Third World, would have liked to benefit from this initiative if they had the freedom to do so. The Third World countries and world nations in general believe that Iraq is serious in its offer, and it means what it says. All world nations are willing to benefit from the initiative, but they unable to because of the current circumstances.

Immediately after the initiative was made, the United States said through its administration officials that the embargo includes this free oil, which meant that no country could benefit and ensure the safe arrival of Iraqi oil or any other [Iraqi] product.

[Nahi] The Saudi regime has taken measures to punish the fraternal Arab countries that opposed the U.S. invasion of the Arab lands. Particularly, it cut off oil to these countries. How do you view this? And are there any Iraqi measures to provide urgent assistance to these countries?

[Hammadi] First, this is an old and regrettable story. Whenever a political dispute emerges between an Arab government and another, each government tries to punish the citizens of the other, cut off human and popular bonds, and abrogate earlier agreements. This has had very negative effects on inter-Arab relations and has significantly

hindered Arab interaction. Such conduct shows weak or lacking pan-Arab feelings and reflects a primitive, uncivilized spirit. The Saudi Government's measures against Jordan and Yemen are a concrete example on this. Iraq is now going all-out to lessen the economic and financial burden on Jordan and Yemen as a result of the Saudi position. It approved cooperation, especially with Jordan, to avoid any oil shortage resulting from the cutoff of Saudi oil. I think that the measures taken are successful and can solve the problem. We are also trying to take other measures to ease the damage resulting from such actions against Jordan, Yemen, and any other Arab country in a similar position.

[Nahi] French-Iraqi relations were strongly shaken when the French Government got carried away and followed the U.S. position. Will this have any impact on the distinguished French-Iraqi ties? Will it also affect the status of French companies?

[Hammadi] France and Iraq are bound by strong ties which have been formed throughout a long period of time. We have made it clear time and again to the French side that we are eager to maintain these ties and promote them, and that we are ready to strengthen these relations in the future. This position has taken shape following the termination of the war with Iran, and through many measures. The rescheduling agreement which we signed with France was better than any similar agreements which were concluded with other countries. Moreover, we encouraged the activity of French companies in Iraq, and all pending economic problems between the two countries were resolved. Things got out of hand, however, and all this has come to a halt as a result of France's contribution to the economic embargo against Iraq. Many French quarters wished this had not happened.

Here, I would like to note that the positions of France during this crisis have been far from identical with those of the United States. We have always been concerned to make France understand that this is not in its interest in the region, and it has been proven that the status France has in Iraq and the Arab countries following the independence of Algeria, and since the age of President de Gaulle, has turned out to reflect a sound policy which deserves to be heeded. Here, I would like to point out that the French position has recently shown some moderation represented in the proposals of the French president, which he declared in his speech to the General Assembly. We have explained to the French side that these proposals are worthy of attention and development. At any rate, and regardless of what has taken place, we are eager to maintain ties with France, but it depends on the French side to confirm this.

[Nahi] The position taken by some official Soviet sides at international forums has revealed an unmistakable change which runs counter to the existing ties of friendship between Iraq and the USSR. To what extent does this reflect on the nature and magnitude of cooperation between Iraq and the USSR, which has been characterized throughout previous decades by stability and mutual trust?

[Hammadi] In the case of the USSR, it is well known that Iraq and the USSR are bound by long-standing, solid relations. These relations have been useful to Iraq and the USSR, both materially and morally. The USSR and Iraq are bound by a long-term friendship agreement. The radical change that has overtaken Soviet policy toward the Western camp, especially the United States, has led the USSR to take positions identical to those of the United States in relation to the Security Council resolutions. It is clear that this position is not in harmony with the spirit of the Iraq-USSR friendship agreement. I can say that in this regard we have shown patience and tolerance, and have been eager to explain to the USSR that these positions harm relations between the two countries and are incompatible with the spirit of the friendship agreement.

To tell the truth, I would say that the USSR, for its part, has expressed its eagerness to maintain friendly relations with Iraq. However, it depends on the USSR in the next stage whether it is eager to maintain relations with us or whether it has other considerations.

[Nahi] How accurate is it to say that this is the era of American hegemony of the world?

[Hammadi] It is still early days. The emergence of other powers to counterbalance the United States is not a farfetched possibility. Monopoly and tyranny cannot reign forever.

[Nahi] Would you name some of these powers?

[Hammadi] Western Europe, for one, can act as a new center of gravity, and so can Japan. The same goes for Arab countries pursuing unity and liberation.

[Nahi] Iraq is said to be seeking a deal to swap oil for foodstuffs and medicines via Iran. How accurate is the report?

[Hammadi] No, no such contacts are taking place. It is absolutely groundless. The contacts uner way between Iraq and Iran are on the POW's and normalization of ties and to seal the end of the war that, for all intents and purposes, halted on 8 August 1988.

[Nahi] Incidentally, what is the latest on the POW's?

[Hammadi] Yesterday the Iraqi delegate traveled to Iran and communicated to the Iranians that we initiated the prisoner release on the strength of numerous promises by them that the prisoner swap would be full and comprehensive. We kept our part of the deal, having set free all the Iranian prisoners. The Iranians released a corresponding number. Given that Iraqi prisoners outnumber the Iranians, the Iranians unjustifiably halted the releases. It is not true that there are Iranian prisoners left

in Iraq. We are now seeking, through dialogue, to let the Iranian side honor their promises they gave relevant to the prisoners.

[Nahi] Are you optimistic ali these crises, above all the blockade, will come to an end?

[Hammadi] A blockade cannot last forever—nothing does. But I cannot pin it to a time frame. It is hard to predict, but certainly it will take some time yet. It may be days or weeks before the blockade ends. This will happen when those who initiated the embargo come to the realization that it is doing them more harm than good

Discusses Jordan, French Ties

JN1510125590 Baghdad INA in English 1220 GMT 15 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, Oct 15, INA—Deputy Prime Minister and Chairman of the Economic Committee Dr. Sa'dun Hammadi said Iraq would resist and foil the U.S.-led economic blockade through self-reliance and optimum increase of agricultural production.

In an interview with AL-JUMHURIYAH daily of Saturday [13 October], Dr. Hammadi said any talk that Iraq has not been harmed by the blockade is not true, however, what should be stressed is that the responsibility for the damage afflicting Iraq lies on the United States and its Western allies.

He said the blockade has caused a halt to development and this is a big issue because it relates to the standard of living and the future of the Iraqi people.

"Therefore, the United States and its Western allies bear the responsibility of this big damage inflicting our national economy", Dr Hammadi said.

"It is clear that this act violates the United Nations Charter and contradicts with the aims of development of the Third World. What the United States is doing through the United Nations is an act against the spirit and the letter of the Charter".

Dr. Hammadi added that every party that yielded to U.S. pressure also has a share of the blame for moral and ethical reasons for the damage inflicted on Iraq. However, Iraq cannot surrender to the impact of such damage but in fact will have to resist, Mr. Hammadi stressed.

Asked whether Iraq had halted its development programmes because of the blockade, Dr. Hammadi said development at this stage is a development of self-defence. This means provision of food and other basic needs on the civilian side of the issue and meeting the needs of defence and the Armed Forces on the military side, he said. "Therefore, all development efforts at this stage are adopted and reorganised on this basis".

Dr. Hammadi said that many measures have been taken to activate the agricultural sector as a source of Iraq's power to hold out at the current stage. He added that the agricultural sector has widely responded to the present development efforts. The response came as a result of two basic factors, including financial incentives for farmers to increase output and national enthusiasm which is a very important incentive, Dr. Hammadi said.

Dr. Hammadi denied reports about offers from foreign industrial and trade firms to supply Iraq with food and medicines via a third party. "This is not true", Mr. Hammadi said.

"If it is a matter of desire, I am positive that the overwhelming majority of commercial firms and institutions, whether individual or as consortiums", in the world would like to bypass the blockade and continue their trade to make profit. But, these firms are now pressured by their governments, which on their part are under pressure of the United States and its Western allies", Mr. Hammadi said.

Asked about the repressive measures taken by the Saudi regime against Arab countries opposing the U.S. invasion of Arab lands, Mr. Hammadi said it was regrettable that whenever a political disagreement emerged between two Arab governments, the Arab government resorts to punishing the citizens of the other country.

This kind of behaviour shows lack of national feeling and it indicates uncivilized primitive spirit, he added, explaining that a clear example of such behaviour is the acts of the Saudi regime against Jordan and Yemen.

Mr. Hammadi said Iraq is doing its best to try to mitigate the economic and financial impacts affecting Jordan and Yemen as a result of the Saudi stand and decided to cooperate with Jordan in particular to avoid the impact of the shortage of oil supplies resulting from halt of oil from the Saudi Government. "I believe that the measures taken are successful and can solve the problem. Besides, we are endeavouring to find other measures to alleviate the damage resulting for Jordan, Yemen and every Arab country faced with a similar situation".

Asked about Iraqi-French relations, Dr. Hammadi said strong relations had existed between Iraq and France over a long period of time and Iraq told France many times that it wished to develop bilateral ties.

After the end of the Gulf war, Iraq had reached a number of agreements with France and encouraged the activity of French firms in Iraq but there was a halt to the development of these relations because of French participation in economic blockade against Iraq. "This halt has been against our will and many French parties wish what happened did not happen".

Dr Hammadi added: "We have always been keen to make the French side understand that this is not in the interest of France in the region and that the position of France in Iraq and in Arab countries after the independence of Algeria and since the term of the late President De Gaulle has shown that it represented a correct policy which deserves to be maintained".

Dr. Hammadi said that the French attitude has recently displayed some moderation represented in the proposals made by French president in his speech at the General Assembly of the United Nations. "We have explained to the French side that those proposals had some positive aspects which deserve attention and development. However, despite what happened we are keen to maintain our relations with France but everything depends on the French side".

Asked whether it can be said that the world is living through a stage of American domination on the world, Mr. Hammadi said it is just a beginning but this does not mean that no other powers would emerge to create an equilibrium of a new type in the world because there is bound to be a balance to replace tyranny.

Mr. Hammadi said Western Europe and Japan could be a new centre of polarisation and I believe that Arab countries heading for unity and liberation can be the centre of an international polarisation.

Mr. Hammadi denied reports of Iraqi-Iranian talks about exchanging the Iraqi oil for food and medicines through Iran. He said there are no talks of this kind and the contacts going on between the two countries are related to the question of war prisoners, normalisation of ties and official end of the war which practically stopped on August 8, 1988.

U.S. Resolution on Israel 'Sheer Hypocrisy'

LD1310025490

[Editorial report] Baghdad International Service in English at 2100 GMT on 12 October broadcasts a commentary on the U.S. draft resolution at the United Nations criticizing Israel for the 8 October Jerusalem massacre. Poor reception allows processing of only the following:

The commentary finds "the United States has opted to be harsh towards Israel this time to avoid world anger if it vetos or abstains from the vote against the latest Israeli crime in Jerusalem," adding that "some American politicians" find the U.S. draft resolution necessary since a "mass murder crime" carried out by an "occupation authority" in a territory recognized by the United Nations as an occupied territory "should at least be dealt with by (?positive) and tough condemnation resolutions proportionate with the enthusiasm the superpowers have shown in dealing with the Gulf crisis."

The commentary denies anyone asking for "decisive action as far as U.S.-Israeli relations are concerned" is overambitious and compares this "odd international situation" to the Gulf crisis, expressing satisfaction with "words and not deeds" only if the words are "strong."

The commentary adds: "One cannot help feeling that this stance on the part of the United States is sheer hypocrisy."

At 2128 GMT reception deteriorates to unmonitorable.

Editor Denies UK Secretary Hurd's Allegations

JN1510132990 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1005 GMT 15 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Oct (INA)—A political analyst has denied the allegations and charges made by British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd yesterday in his statements to Egyptian journalists in Cairo.

The INA [IRAQI NEWS AGENCY] international affairs editor said:

Douglas Hurd seems to be living in a bygone imperial age, an age in which Britain was an empire on whose territory the sun never set. He is still talking the language of superiority and arrogance with the confidence of the invincible. He forgets that this language has deteriorated, and its alphabet, words, and meanings have been trampled by the peoples' feet. This Hurd is threatening Iraq with guns and forgets that the Iraqis fought his fathers with clubs, stones, and old rifles, and kicked them out of Iraq in such a way that the effects are still felt today.

Hurd is fantasizing if he thinks this language will frighten anyone. We Iraqis are very eager to fight the U.S. aggressors, be they British or Zionists, to teach them a new historic lesson, from which the remnants of colonialism would learn, and open a new age of freedom and progress for the Arab nation and the oppressed peoples.

We, together with all sons of the Arab nation, realize that with this logic of his, he [Hurd] wants to reassure the local agents of imperialism and Zionism, at the head of which is Husni and the betrayer of the two holy mosques, in face of their peoples.

It is ironic that Hurd is talking about aggression, expansion, and the security of weaker countries, while he heads those who oppressed peoples, plundered their wealth, tore apart their countries, and left behind complicated problems from which the peoples are still suffering.

The Iraqis have, once and for all, destroyed those evil British scissors, with which the predecessors of Hurd and the old hag Thatcher cut off a dear part of Iraq and erased from their national history a dark page that carried, one day, the names of the al-Sabah Croesuses and replaced it with a blank page. So, let Hurd and Thatcher grieve about this. Let their sorrow kill them and drive them to hell.

With his hypocritical talk about the Palestine question, Hurd thinks that he can make the Arab nation forget Britain's dark history in Palestine and the crimes Britain committed in the Arab homeland, including Egypt since its occupation and up to the tripartite aggression in 1956 and even after that.

It is really a laughingstock for Hurd to suspend the solution of the Palestine problem in view of Iraq's restoring its southern part, as if the Arab nation has no memory and as if it has forgotten the dark pages of Britain and its allies on the Palestine question. Where

was this British chivalry hiding for almost half a century of occupation, murder, expulsion, and unimplemented international resolutions in this regard? Why have Britain and its allies not remembered the Palestine question until today?

We tell Hurd that Saladin still lives in the hearts of Iraqis. They will not forget him like you did. Neither will they forget what your impertinent predecessor, General Allenby, said to the effect that he had taken revenge on Saladin and the Arab nation by returning to Palestine. As for Saddam Husayn, he is the heir of Saladin and all heroes of the nation in terms of bravery, magnanimity, and courage.

The hatred of Hurd and the leaders of the bygone British colonialism against the Arab nation has reached the level that they cannot forget that Muslim Iraqi hero, Salah-al-Din [Saladin] al- Ayyubi in terms of courage and nobility. The sons of Palestine and the youth and children of the intifadah have understood this. They have shouted his name and carried pictures of him and made these a banner of jihad for liberation. Die with your frustration, enemy of God, peoples, and Saladin. And let all the lowly agents die with you.

Jasim Says State 'Completely Assured of Victory'

JN1610065790 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0115 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Text] Latif Nusayyif Jasim, culture and information minister, has asserted that, while facing the most dangerous hostile onslaught ever witnessed since World War I, Iraq will inflict an ignominious defeat on America and its imperialist and Zionist allies if it dares launch an aggression on Iraq.

During his meeting yesterday with the media delegation of the Republic of Yemen, which is visiting the country at the invitation of the Ministry of Culture and Information, Latif Nusayyif Jasim added that we are completely assured of victory because when peoples pool their capabilities and invoke their glorious history while fighting in defense of honor, right, and principles, victory must be on their side

Saudi 'Victimization' of Yemenis Condemned

JN1510145090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1340 GMT 15 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Oct (INA)—The National Assembly has condemned the feverish campaign directed by authorities of the betrayer of the two holy mosques against Arab nationals in Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia], especially the Yemenis.

The people's representatives issued a statement condemning the criminal behavior of the authorities of the betrayer of the two holy mosques, and their victimization of Yemeni nationals in particular. The statement cited thefts of money and property and expulsions of Yemenis from Najd and Hejaz in breach of all international conventions, Arab values, and the tenets of Islam—for no other reason than their opposition to the American invasion of holy Arab land in Najd and Hejaz and aggression against Iraq.

The statement exhorted Arab masses to cement their unity and step up their struggle against all the symbols of evil seeking to do violence to Arabs, their rights, and worthy causes in the interest of the imperialist-Zionist-colonialist alliance. The statement singled out the imperialist agent and guardian of Zionist interests in the region—the obsequious ruler of Egypt, Husni, and the betrayer of the two holy mosques, who has shown himself to be a veritable servant of imperialists and Zionists.

'Major' Military Parade Staged by Popular Army

JN1510214790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2041 GMT 15 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Oct (INA)—A major military parade by Popular Army fighters augmenting our Armed Forces was staged this afternoon. Upwards of two million fighters from Baghdad took part. 'Izzat Ibrahim, deputy chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC], attended the parade, held under the motto "Baghdad Heeds the Call."

The parade began with the national anthem and recitations from the holy Koran for the souls of our virtuous martyrs and those of the Palestinian revolution and the Arab nation.

Next, the commander of the parade asked permission of his excellency the deputy chairman of the RCC to begin the parade led by women fighters from the Popular Army holding the flags of Iraq and the Arab revolution. They were followed by a band of fighters carrying a picture of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn and the logos of the Popular Army and the parade.

Then two fighters from the Popular Army handed over to the vice chairman a pledge written in blood to be forwarded to His Excellency President Saddam Husayn.

The deputy chairman of the RCC hailed the vanguards of fighters representing the third group of volunteers who completed their training, which covers various kinds of combat weapons reflecting the strength and potency of Iraq and the efficiency and armament of the Popular Army, the faithful backer of our Armed Forces.

After that, columns of glorious Iraqi women fighters marched alongside units of the Palestinian volunteers, and the Jamal 'Abd- al-Nasir units for Egyptian volunteers, martyr Isma'il 'Abdallah from Sudan, in addition to the unit of Syria's fighters, all of which represent the unity of Arab future in the face of conspiracies and imperialist-Zionist challenges which face great Iraq and the glorious Arab nation.

After that, the Sudanese fighters presented a pledge written in blood to President Saddam Husayn as an expression of their love and loyalty toward his wise leadership and the defense of Iraq and the Arab nation. RCC Deputy Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim received the pledge on behalf of the president.

The fighters of the Baghdad area command then marched before the attendees. The fighters consisted of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party's units of Saddam, Sa'd, Khalid, Abu-Ja'far al-Mansur, and al- Rashid.

After that, the columns participating in the parade repeated the oath of allegiance that they will be soldiers for justice and unyielding swords for the defense of great Iraq and the Arab nation.

Comrade Sa'di Mahdi Salih, Regional Command member, secretary of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party's Baghdad organization office, and commander of the Baghdad area for the Popular Army, told the INA correspondent that the fighters who marched represent the vanguards of the third group of the Baghdad area command fighters who finished their training. He said they total more than 2 million fighters.

He also explained that the first and second batches of the Popular Army vanguards have marched on their geographic areas, pointing out that there are other units which are continuing their training on various weapons.

The Iraqi national anthem was played to end the grand parade.

The parade was attended by senior military and civilian officials.

Paper Discounts Premeditated Temple Mount Attack

TA1610073190 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 10 Oct 90 p A1

[Report by Ze'ev Schiff]

[Text] Various reports, corroborated by the investigation of dozens of detainees, indicate that in contradiction to what was initially reported, the Palestinians did not preplan the attack on Jews praying at the Western Wall. Their plan was to prevent the Temple Mount Faithful from entering the mosque area. The attack on the Jewish worshipers developed later, spontaneously.

According to these reports, the information that the Palestinians prepared caches of rocks and iron clubs on the Temple Mount and that many of them arrived there with rocks in their pockets is not true.

Construction work was in progress on the Temple Mount, and there was no lack of rocks or pieces of marble blocks prepared for work. These reports have changed the direction of the investigation.

As was said before, the preparations were an attempt to prevent the Temple Mount Faithful, headed by Gershon Solomon, from reaching the site. As late as last Friday [5 October], a sermon delivered in one of the Temple Mount mosques stated that the Jews intended to enter the area of the sacred mosques, and called upon the Muslims to come there on Monday [8 October] to prevent this. These facts were mentioned in intelligence reports and were known to the police. One of the police officers arrived at the Temple Mount at 0330 [0130 GMT], but did not notice any irregular activity. At 0700, hundreds of Arab youths began arriving there.

Despite this mass gathering early in the morning, it was decided not to call for reinforcement beyond what had already been planned. This seems odd, because the Palestinians had been trying to instigate riots in Jerusalem for several weeks. It was known that their leaders were trying to renew the intifadah after the Palestinian issue was pushed aside. Protecting the tens of thousands of Jewish worshipers expected to arrive that day also called for additional policemen, under these circumstances.

The outbreak started when the mosques of the Silwan neighborhood made calls that alleged that Jews were invading the neighborhood. These were false calls. The Temple Mount Faithful arrived in Silwan, where masked Palestinians went out to face them. The calls were passed on by loudspeakers on the mosques, and when the Palestinians on the Temple Mount heard them they started throwing stones at the Jews at the Western Wall Plaza. At this point the crowd went wild, and its leaders did not try to control it.

The question of whether the police used excessive fire has not yet been fully answered. Only a thorough investigation of all the police, their commanders, and some of those injured, will provide a fuller picture. Such an investigation will have to look into the fact that there were women among the fatalities, and answer the question of whether shots were fired at fleeing Palestinians.

Jerusalem Mayor Willing To Meet UN Delegation

TA1610101890 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 16 Oct 90 p 1

[Report by political correspondent David Makovsky]

[Excerpt] Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek indicated last night he would be willing to meet with the UN team delegated to investigate last Monday's Temple Mount riot. This, he told THE JERUSALEM POST, might resolve the international impasse surrounding Israel's rejection of the Security Council resolution, and help avert a confrontation with the U.S.

"I will meet with anyone who asks to meet me," Kollek said. A meeting with the UN delegation "should not be seen as a demonstrative gesture against the government or its decision. I have no illusions about the UN, but I feel we have nothing to hide by explaining our position."

Officials in the Prime Minister's Office, contacted later for their reaction, expressed opposition to such meetings. "Since Jerusalem is part of Israel, it is obvious that it is the Israeli government and not the Jerusalem Municipality that conducts such contacts," they said. [passage omitted]

Perez de Cuellar Requests Inquiry's Conclusions

TA1610064690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Text] Israel has formally informed the UN secretary general that it refuses to accept an investigatory committee sent by him. UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar told Yohanan Bein, the Israeli ambassador to the United Nations, that the delegation would not be leaving for Israel for the time being. Perez de Cuellar asked the ambassador to convey several questions to the Israeli Government for clarification and to supply him with the conclusions of the [Israeli] committee that is currently investigating the incidents on the Temple Mount.

Supreme Muslim Council Forms Inquiry Committee

TA1510203590 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 15 Oct 90

[Text] The Supreme Muslim Council for the Temple Mount has set up its own internal commission of inquiry to investigate the Temple Mount events. The commission includes the custodian of the al-Aqsa Mosque, the Temple Mount's Shiite qadi, and two qadis who are members of the Supreme Muslim Council. It is not known at this point whether this commission's findings will also be brought to the attention of the commission of inquiry appointed by the prime minister.

The Supreme Muslim Council has also decided to receive the UN delegation and give it the data it has on the incident.

UK Foreign Secretary Gets Cool Reception

LD1510202290 London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English 1921 GMT 15 Oct 90

[By Tom McMullan, PRESS ASSOCIATION diplomatic correspondent in Israel]

[Text] Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd was given a cool reception when he flew into Tel Aviv airport tonight for two days of talks with Israeli ministers. Mr Hurd was ushered quickly to a waiting car and was not given the chance to make a brief statement on arrival.

Three hours later the foreign secretary denied the visit had got off on the wrong foot. "Every country has its own way of handling these things. The Israeli foreign minister wanted to start a conversation alone with me in the car which he did." Mr Hurd said he was "delighted" at his reception and added: "An arrival statement was never planned."

But that did not explain the podium provided at the airport which was not used and the briefing from a Foreign Office official just minutes before touchdown telling journalists to expect a statement.

The foreign secretary appeared to want to lower the temperature of what could be eventful discussions. He has angered Israel by his call for new thinking to promote a settlement of the Palestinian problem. Mr Hurd pledged he would not be "mealy mouthed" in expressing his views about the Middle East.

The Israeli decision not to co-operate with a UN inquiry into the shootings at Temple Mount in Jerusalem last week took Britain by surprise.

Mr Hurd meets Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir tomorrow.

Shamir Addresses Opening of Knesset Winter Session

TA1510160690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1405 GMT 15 Oct 90

["Statement" by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir to the opening of the winter session of the 12th Knesset in Jerusalem—live]

[Text] Mr. Speaker, ladies and gentlemen: Permit me at the start of my remarks to extend to the Knesset and all the people of Israel greetings for a happy and prosperous new year. When I presented the government to this house on 11 June, 1990, I said that the top priority of the government and the nation is aliyah and immigrant absorption. I did not, however, push aside the obvious: that the security of the state and the well-being of its citizens are always our chief concerns.

As though to remind us that our opponents have not stopped their threats against the security and existence of Israel, the tyrant of Baghdad attacked his small and helpless neighbor, brutally squashed it, and immediately turned westward to Eretz Yisra'el to announce for all to hear that Israel is his next target. Saddam Husayn has destined for Israel a fate similar to that of Kuwait; but he will not succeed, just as his predecessors did not succeed in seeing their dreams fulfilled. His fate will be the same as that of his predecessors, while Israel will continue to be built up and strengthened.

The Iraqi incursion into Kuwait is not a mere inter-Arab war; it very clearly highlights several axioms which we reiterate to anyone willing to listen. Israel is situated in a chronically turbulent region in which the norms of a democratic state are completely lacking; a region of continuous tension between various states and regimes; a region where weapons systems are hoarded in enormous quantities; a region where some leaders are ready to resort to any means, including terrorism, poisonous gas, chemical weapons, and nuclear arms to achieve their goals. Middle Eastern society holds all human life cheap; it has a profound hatred for the state of the Jews and its citizens and refuses to accept its very existence.

We are especially angered by the cynicism of the announcements and declarations by politicians in the East and West about alleged growing moderation in these Arab regimes. On the basis of these unfounded statements, we are expected to accept the massive supply of weapons to these countries, to agree to negotiations with the terrorist organizations, and to ignore the incitement and hatred regularly heard from the Arab countries.

Reality has turned the tables on those who proffer theories about moderation in the Arab world and has proved that our fears and claims are true, but the lesson is never learned. Israel, however, will not pay the price of the lessons the international community must learn from this gloomy reality. We would gladly give up the achievement of retroactive justification for ourselves and our position, as was the case with our Air Force's 1981 raid on the Iraqi nuclear reactor.

In view of this reality, our policy is clear to all. We have no aggressive intentions toward any country whatsoever, neither Iraq nor Jordan nor any other country in the region. But if attacked by anyone, [interjection by Arab Knesset members] we will not hesitate to react in any way we deem advisable to protect the country and its inhabitants.

Within this context, the stability of Jordan, our neighbor to the east, is particularly important. Any destabilization of the situation there or intervention in its territory by another country could increase the tension and the dangers to dimensions we will be unable to accept. We are, however, prepared for peace with whoever extends his hand to us in peace.

Despite the difficulties and although we were not happy with the direction of the process in the first few months

of 1990, we did not lose hope and did not stop pointing to the Israeli Government peace initiative of May 1989, which is based on the Camp David Accords, as the only logical way to achieve a peace settlement with the neighboring countries and the Arab residents of Eretz Yisra'el. We are prepared to renew the efforts to achieve a settlement at any time.

I will stress once again what we have proposed many times in the past. There will be no negotiations with the PLO, and under no circumstances will we agree to the participation of terrorist organizations in negotiations, either direct or indirect. The time has come for the Arabs living in this country to recognize the fact that the PLO and the other terrorist organizations lead them astray and want to advance their disreputable aims at their expense and suffering.

The cruel attack on Jewish worshipers at the Western Wall during the Sukkoth holiday was an unprecedented criminal act of desecration. The act should nave aroused reactions of protest and condemnation from the entire international community and in the hearts of all honest men.

The police responded to the attack. We regret the loss of life that resulted from it, but one must not gloss over the fact that it was a criminal act carried out by an agitated mob that instigated this act without any provocation and without any justification. [indistinct heckling by Knesset Member Muhammad Mi'ari] As all the Knesset members [MK's] know, a commission of inquiry was formed to probe all aspects of the affair. At the same time, the citizens of Israel and every Jew, wherever he may be, can only stand amazed and protest the criticism and condemnation in various capitals, which are remarkable in that they so totally ignore the serious assault on the Jewish people's most sacred site. We heard no similar condemnations, nor was the Security Council even convoked, when entire families were butchered in Ra's al-Burqa' or when buses transporting Israeli passengers and tourists were attacked or when riots broke out and hundreds were killed in the mosques in Mecca.

Last Wednesday's Security Council resolution was a one-sided resolution, and one can only surmise the motives behind the support it had garnered in the current international situation.

Let me read before the MK's the announcement the deputy prime minister and foreign minister were authorized by the cabinet to convey to the UN secretary general in view of that resolution:

1. We have read the text of Security Council Resolution 672 and the statement of the president of the Security Council that was communicated in connection thereto. They are totally unacceptable to us.

2. A. The Security Council decision completely disregards the attack against Jewish worshipers on the holiday of Sukkoth at the Western Wall, which is on the Temple Mount, the holiest site of the Jewish people, and does not condemn those who attacked the worshipers; this is a political decision with no connection to reality.

B. The State of Israel expressed its regret over the loss of life that occurred as a result of events on the Temple Mount, at a time when security forces were responsible for fulfilling their duties. Israel has also appointed an independent commission of inquiry into the chain of events, their causes, and the actions of the security forces. The commission will present its conclusions and recommendations at the earliest possible date.

As is known, the State of Israel ensures complete freedom of religion in the holy sites of all religions, in accordance with the law. Never, in all the history of Jerusalem, has freedom of religion for all been guaranteed as it has been since the city was unified under Israeli sovereignty in 1967, and never has the city been more open to all.

3. Jerusalem is not, in any part, occupied territory; it is the sovereign capital of the State of Israel. Therefore, there is no room for any involvement on the part of the United Nations in any matter relating to Jerusalem, just as the United Nations does not intervene in events, some even more severe, that occur in other countries.

4. Given the aforementioned, Israel will not receive the delegation of the secretary general of the United Nations.

5. Israel will continue to assume responsibility, in accordance with its laws, for the safeguarding of holy places and for the security of all residents of Jerusalem, Jews and Arabs, as in all other areas it controls. That is the end of the cabinet resolution.

I hope the entire Knesset will rally around this statement, which is at the heart and core of the consensus in Israel.

I must add that this Security Council resolution refers to earlier resolutions—242 and 338—as the basis for a settlement, and that it appended reference to the so-called Palestinian nation's legitimate political rights. This phrase is not mentioned at all in Resolutions 242 and 338, and it even distorts the content of the Camp David Accords, which the Security Council totally ignored. The way to implement Resolutions 242 and 338 is outlined in the Camp David Accords.

In this context, I would like to remind our American and Egyptian friends of their solemn promise made upon the evacuation of the Sinai. On 20 April 1982 President Reagan wrote to Prime Minister Begin, and I quote: You, Prime Minister Begin, President Mubarak, and I agree that the Camp David framework agreement is the only agreed-upon plan for the solution of this problem—end of quote—meaning, the Palestinian problem. President Mubarak sent a letter to the Israeli prime minister on the very same day, in which he noted, and I quote: The Camp David framework agreement remains the only binding document between our two countries. End of quote. [indistinct heckling]

Mr. Speaker, the historic drama of the ingathering of the exiles is still alive, and is even gaining momentum these days. Our generation is truly fortunate in that it can see, with its very own eyes, the great numbers of new immigrants coming here from the USSR, Ethiopia, and other countries. Such phenomena warm the heart of every Jew in Israel. Our mission, as a nation and a government, is to live up to the tremendous challenge of immigrant absorption, and to guarantee housing and employment for each new immigrant, just as much as we are committed to providing the same to veteran citizens and new couples. The cabinet and the ministerial committees dealing with the issue have devoted more time and effort to the housing and employment issues than they have to any other subject.

Several central and very specific resolutions have been made regarding housing, an investment infrastructure for the creation of new jobs, and a comprehensive economic program. Yet no one deludes himself that cabinet resolutions, good and relevant though they may be, will in and of themselves solve the difficult and complex problems involved in immigrant absorption. Yet without these resolutions or the legislation that was passed, in part, in the Knesset during its recess, we would not have been able to lay the foundations or outline the frameworks for the absorption networks to allow the mechanism to get started that will offer housing and employment.

As the MK's know, the cabinet wishes to speed up the process of privatization and to limit government involvement in the commercial and business sectors to the absolute minimum. This is necessary to promote the national economy and its growth. We knew this even before the communist regimes in East Europe collapsed one after the other following the bankruptcy of their centralized economies. Thus, after deliberations and a lot of thinking we reached the conclusion that it would be impossible to progress in the mission of absorption unless the cabinet steps in and provides the push and the incentives for the contractor and business sectors and for investors in Israel and abroad. The cabinet implemented broad plans, which may even be called revolutionary, to provide a wide-ranging momentum in these two areas: In construction, a decision was made to sell 50,000 plots of land for low-rise buildings as the gift of the Israel Lands Administration and to allocate land for hundreds of thousands of apartments in accordance with Construction and Housing Ministry plans, including plots which had heretofore been subject to construction strictures. At the same time, the construction of apartment buildings all over the country has been accelerated. The number of apartments on which construction work has begun during the past six months is 17,000, a 70-percent increase over the same period last year. Yet as impressive as this increase may be, it is still far from answering the growing needs. The cabinet has decided to extend its obligation to purchase from contractors apartments they will be unable to sell themselves. In so doing, the cabinet has undertaken to bridge the gap between the need to start building projects in time and the moment when the immigrants themselves will be able to purchase apartments.

Recently, in view of the fears of the contractors, who still cannot see the potential apartment buyers, we decided to increase the purchase obligation to 100 percent in the case of smaller, inexpensive apartments outside the country's central region. This will, moreover, also accelerate development and expansion mainly in development towns in the north and south.

In addition to these measures, the cabinet has also decided to obtain help in the form of imported mobile homes and prefabricated structures from abroad—15,000 such units have so far been brought—and to prepare the sites for them, using, to a limited extent, emergency legislation.

Along with housing for the immigrants, the cabinet has begun to solve the problem of the homeless. Approximately 1,700 families have already been settled in apartments, and as for the other families that still live in tents—numbering approximately 500—a solution will be found soon.

As for employment, the cabinet has adopted a series of resolutions to encourage investments and speed them up, thereby creating jobs. The purpose of the resolutions is to make it easier for investors to raise resources in the capital markets in Israel and abroad, lower the employment costs for employers, and allow for greater flexibility in the wage-scale mechanisms. On top of that, the cabinet has also added other measures in the areas of encouraging new investments by expressing willingness to share the risks with entrepreneurs, up to assuming two-thirds of the risk itself, as well as by increasing research and development budgets and by providing further incentives to exports.

In housing, as well as in the sphere of the policy of encouraging the creation of additional jobs, we have tried to avoid repeating the mistake of excess government intervention. At the same time, clearly if the business sector's activity does not meet the requirements, the cabinet will be responsible for filling the gaps.

I feel safe in noting that there are initial signs of improvement in the job market. After 1989, in which the number of employed individuals dropped by nearly 7,000 [as heard], the data indicates an increase of approximately 40,000 in the second quarter of this year, including in the construction and industrial sectors. The trend of increase in employment will undoubtedly continue, but let us not indulge in the illusion that jobs will be found quickly for everyone.

At the same time that the number of jobs increases, the number of job seekers on the dole will also apparently rise. Here too, we will have to contemplate direct assistance in finding occupation during the interim period. In

the meantime, the Immigrant Absorption Ministry continues to absorb the new immigrants in the direct absorption method, and has scored a large measure of success. Approximately half the new immigrants choose to live in the central district, approximately one-third of them wish to live in the north, about five percent in the south, and 10 percent in Jerusalem. Obviously, that division will change proportionately with the apartment supply in any part of the country and the employment it can offer. It was therefore decided to give preference to the peripheral regions by way of incentives to spread the population in the north and the south, primarily in the direction of the development towns, and by attempts to limit the rush to the central part of the country. Directing the immigrants to the development towns is already noticeable in these places. We have noticed there the blessed process of construction, an increase in the population, and an economic and social boom.

Naturally, a difficult interim period is certainly ahead of us until the construction pace begins to catch up with the scope of the demand. The Immigrant Absorption Ministry has been taking action to meet the requirements during that time. The rental apartment reserves are nearly exhausted, which is why we have sought emergency solutions, inciuding youth hostels, hotels, and IDF [Israel Defense Forces] installations. All these should fill the need for a few months until the mobile homes and prefabricated houses arrive, which the Construction and Housing Ministry is currently purchasing both in Israel and abroad.

The vast majority of the new immigrants is being absorbed directly, a method which has proved to be successful and economical in terms of the expenditures by both the absorber and the new immigrant. Let us, from this rostrum, congratulate all those who are involved in this holy mission: the Ministries of Immigrant Absorption, Construction and Housing, Industry and Commerce, and Finance; the employees in these ministries; the ministers heading them; the municipalities; the local councils; and the various volunteer organizations which have been doing so much to absorb the new immigrants socially and make the initial integration process easier. All of Israel's citizens are worthy of special commendation for the hearty welcome and the assistance they have extended to the new families, every one in his or her special field and place of residence.

I must stress that we must not fail to meet the challenge of immigrant absorption, and that the way ahead of us is still long. During their first year in Israel, the new immigrants are shielded or protected in the Hebrew-language courses and in retraining programs, and they also receive financial aid for rent and subsistence. The real challenge begins in the second year, and here we must increase our efforts.

This massive wave of immigration and its absorption in Israel should be an enterprise involving the entire Jewish nation. We expect the Jews all over the world to engage in this as well, and to help as best they can toward the success of this historic enterprise.

Mr. Speaker, the absorption of the massive and blessed wave of immigration which has been arriving in Israel is Zionism's big story; this is the great success of the State of Israel. It is the guarantee that the threats of the Arab leaders will not deter the Jewish people. They may threaten and scheme, yet we absorb and grow stronger.

This week's portion of the Scriptures which we read in the synagogue includes the Prophet Isaiah's words: "Fear not, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; I will say to the north, give up, and to the south, do not withhold; bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the end of the earth."

God willing, we will live, even in our generation, to witness the concentration of the vast majority of the Jewish people in our father's land, Eretz Yisra'el, and see it grow, develop, and prosper. Thank you.

Reports of Mass Deportation of Egyptians Denied

JN1510164290 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1610 GMT 15 Oct 90

[Text] Amman, 15 Oct (PETRA)—The Jordanian Government has categorically denied reports disseminated by some Arab news agencies to the effect that it had deported Egyptian workers.

In a statement to the JORDANIAN NEWS AGENCY, Labor Minister Qasim 'Ubaydat said these reports are totally untrue and that the Jordanian Government has not deported any Egyptian worker who possesses a valid work permit.

He added that Egyptian workers are carrying on with their daily activities in their second homeland, Jordan, and that no change concerning their legal status has taken place. He also said that reports by news agencies saying that Jordan has imposed a $300 fine on Egyptian workers who do not have a work permit are fabricated and lack objectivity and credibility.

It is to be recalled that there are 200,000 Egyptian workers in Jordan, only 40,000 of whom have valid work permits.

UN Permission Sought To Send Food to Iraq

JN1510200590 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 15 Oct 90

[Text] The JORDANIAN NEWS AGENCY has learned that the Foreign Ministry will hold the necessary contacts with competent parties in the UN Security Council [UNSC] to obtain pemission to send a charity convoy to the Iraqi children in accordance with Jordan's commitment to the UNSC resolutions in this regard.

The competent government authorities have asked the Union of Welfare Societies, which oversees preparing and dispatching charity convoys to Iraq, not to send the convoy, whose departure was scheduled to take place today, as announced by the union before seeking to obtain the UNSC's approval.

The JORDANIAN NEWS AGENCY also learned that Jordan's permanent UN representative will make every effort to obtain that approval in accordance with the legal and humanitarian procedures in this regard.

Information Minister Comments on Media Freedom

JN1410110490 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1857 GMT 13 Oct 90

[Interview with Information Minister Ibrahim 'Izz-al-Din by Rami Khuri on the subject of "the media, information, the press, and the political situation in Jordan and the Middle East" within the weekly "Encounter" progran in Amman; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Khuri] Welcome to "Encounter."

['Izz-al-Din] Thank you.

[Khuri] Ibrahim, you had 28 years of experience in government service in the Royal Court, as minister of state, as an ambassador to many countries overseas, and now as minister of information. We would like to start by talking about how you see the role of information, and in fact the role of the Information Ministry and the role of the government in a changing political environment in Jordan. Let us talk domestically first. We have had now about a year since the parliamentary election and the re-launch of the democratic process in Jordan. How do you assess the past year in terms of media and politics and the role of the two?

['Izz-al-Din] Of course, I am happy to start with the whole exercise. And, I am extremely grateful and happy, because I was all through in the middle of this exercise and I am still there. It is a very exciting time and it is a great challenge. I feel our society is changing, and one feels extremely happy and proud to be part of this change. Now, after the elections and after the new government had taken its role, many changes had happened in relation to the press and in relation to the official appreciation and attitude towards the press and towards the whole expression of thoughts, expression of the way that people can express themselves politically.

[Khuri] Give us more detail on that. Specifically, how have you instituted change in this position, in terms of your dealings with the papers, your dealings with the privately owned newspapers or the publicly-owned television, radio, and news agency?

['Izz-al-Din] We have three areas that we really work or cater to in this field. The first is, of course, the independent national papers. Second, is the official media. And third, the international press. Now, if we start by saying a few words about the national press, as you know, we have four daily newspapers. Three are published in Arabic and the fourth in English. Now, of course, as you know the government owns part of the shares in every one of these newspapers. But what we have done is to give total editorial control to the chief editors. Now, the chief editor of every newspaper is totally responsible for the editorial policy and what is published and what is not published actually in his newspaper. And, we can see that as a result of experience I think everyone can detect that every newspaper has got its own policy. They concentrate on certain subjects. It is not necessarily the policy that the government is following at a certain time. The emphasis sometimes is more or a less on a certain subject, specifically on domestic subject. So I feel that we have established this tradition of total freedom in the editorial control of our newspapers. Now...

[Khuri, interrupting] But before we leave, but the government still owns shares. In the way that came about in 1988 was very controversial with the economic laws and all of these things. It caused a lot of bitterness among the private press. Why does the government need still to maintain ownership of the shares? Why don't you sell them all back to the private sector?

['Izz-al-Din] I think there is a possibility of selling shares in the future. I cannot rule it out. It all depends on the best way to do it. Of course, this is going to be dealt with in a rather financial way. But as far as a political decision or a political appreciation of the situation in concerned, I think there is nothing to prevent selling shares to the public in the most proper manner. There is nothing to prevent this.

[Khuri] Because it seems a little bit incongruous as we are enjoying more freedom and openness in our political life, incongruous with the government to continue owning shares. But the decision hasn't been made on this, you are saying?

['Izz-al-Din] No decision has been made. But I can assure you that there is no way that the government is going to continue holding this. I think the time will come for selling the shares.

[Khuri] Because the government also has control in a way ultimately in terms of licencing; licencing the newspapers?

['Izz-al-Din] It is not a government control. It is a control by law actually. It is an administrative control. Of course, one is controled by the provisions of the law.

I have to add actually, now we are waiting until we see the final findings and report that the committee, who is drafting the national Charter, to finish its job. After that, and after the establishment of the political parties, I think we are looking into giving every political party the possibility of publishing a newspaper, whether it would be daily or weekly. Now that will introduce another dynamic aspect to our media and to our national press. While we are going to have four national papers, and we might have, may be, more, as independent newspaper, we are going to introduce new aspect to the whole dimension of the, let us say, press in our country by giving the political parties the possibility of publishing their own papers.

[Khuri] Is one possibility that some of the existing newspapers might affiliate themselves with the new political parties?

['Izz-al-Din] I don't think so. I think we would like to keep independent national papers functioning in our society and we would look forward to the political parties to publish their own papers in the way they see fit. But I think in any society, you need to have national newspapers like in Britain, you have THE TIMES, you have THE GUARDIAN. They are national quality newspapers, and you have newspapers that could represent pressure groups or political parties.

[Khuri] So that is for the private press. What about the government's attitude towards the media that it owns and controls?

['Izz-al-Din] Yes, of course, the government, as you very well know owns the television and the radio stations. But there has been some flexibility in relation to the coverage of news or in the way that the programs had been, let us say, organized and developed. Now as a result of the active political life that we are exercising, as a result of the activities that are taken seriously by the Parliament, one can see that the whole level of information coverage by the official media had changed, whereby not only official statements and opinion are having the chance to appear, but you have all sorts of opinion having the same chances, specifically views and opinions coming from MP's and members of Parliament [as heard].

The other point is that there is a real more interest in dealing with what is going on in the different, let us say, parts of our society, we are exercising a real economic difficulties now. And because of that we are concentrating on how to solve unemployment, how to start to create conditions, to change attitudes regarding work, how to introduce a process of being more rational about so many things. So all these things are taking great consideration in our programs. So from a political point of view, there is a more wide coverage of all aspects of political life in the country, and regarding the programs, there is more interest in dealing with problems in the society.

[Khuri] Do you sense that the TV and the radio have developed more credibility in the past year or so?

['Izz-al-Din] I think it is up to others to judge this. But I feel that a as result of our own, let us say, investigations and what we receive from different audiences, I think yes, I can say that yes, people are more interested to listen and see our news bulletins, and they take more, may be more interest in our coverage.

[Khuri] But how do you see the role of the government-owned media, let us say, specifically the TV and radio news. Do you see it as basically giving official news or news about everything happening in the country—grass-roots developments, demonstrations, student meetings, environmental affairs—things done by the private sector for instance. Is it your job to report these or you do only what is within the framework of the government?

['Izz-al-Din] No, of course our job is to report about everything that is happening in the society and actually we have started this. It is moving from rather a very rigid way of reporting about official activities into a wider scope of covering every aspect of life. Now I can't claim that it is done all the time, or that it is done all the time professionally, or every aspect of life is being covered, but the attitude is there and the exercise had started. So we are trying to cover whatever we can in a more professional manner.

[Khuri] And this includes putting on the air views that would differ from the government, even critical views? Somebody might not like what the government is doing in terms of education policy or political positions and they should have to say this on the news.

['Izz-al-Din] Yes, of course. Of course I think this has been done. It will be even more. And, of course, we have now opened every aspect to, basically, to the representative of the different groupings in our parliament to view or to present their views, and in this we are giving them

the chance to say whatever they want in the way that they want. We are covering any news conference that is being held by any MP, and definitely in the future, and after our political parties will take shape, that will be more organized, I believe.

[Khuri] Do you get any backlash to this, do you get groups telling you why are you liberalizing the news, and you are ruining things, and we like the way it used to be in the past? Any backlash to what you are doing, people don't want you to liberalize so quickly?

['Izz-al-Din] Not really. I think at the beginning, some people were a little bit surprised, or a little bit, sometimes, upset with the exercise. It was new and it was done, maybe sometimes, in a dramatic manner. But I think that had taken place just a few months at the beginning but now we don't have any real negative remarks from this aspect.

[Khuri] We are passing through a phase now in our political life where there is extreme emotion and people are sort of excited in a way because of the Gulf crisis, and people see this here in Jordan as a confrontation between Arabism and Western imperialism and all this. So there is very much a united feeling in the country and this is reflected in the media. But sometime down the road, we are going to be in a different position, we are going to ... [changes thought] the crisis will be over and then we will be back to internal political debates about economic problems and education, and the role of women, and tourism, and, you know day-to-day issues, and there will be a lot more domestic debate about domestic issues, where there will be many more conflicting opinions—for the government, against the government, not necessarily, the government may not be the focal point any more, with Parliament and political parties and a greater availability of different opinions through the press. You are going to have a much broader spectrum of opinions than we have today. Do you see any problems in the future when this happens?

['Izz-al-Din] I think we are taking things gradually. I feel that one is a little bit more satisfied now in the way that our people are really handling, professionally, the aspects of covering all aspects of life, even if they are controversial or if they oppose government policies. At the beginning, I feel even the official, my colleagues, at the different media organizations, they were a little bit tense when they used to handle such news items or to cover somebody who would really oppose some government policies. Now I think we have bypassed this. I feel that our reporters are much more confident now and they are much more professional in this.

[Khuri] You are talking about the TV and radio, the government-owned media?

['Izz-al-Din] Yes, TV and radio, yes. Of course by time, and after we have a more organized political structure, I feel things will be, from my point of view, much easier because every political party will have a platform. They would have a spokesman. They would be more organized. So I think the time will come to ask all the spokesmen or the leaders of these groupings to debate their policies and to be rather extremely articulate in presenting their views. So I think it is easier, I think it would be much easier in the future because when we have a political structure, every political party has to produce a certain platform that would answer all the major questions asked by the people. And in doing so they have to be articulate, and they have to produce something in one way or another. And of course the government should all the time continue to explain its policies, interpret these policies, and try to defend these policies in one way or another.

So I feel, like any other democracy, you are going to have debates between political, let us say, activists and party leaders and some government officials, and there would be the possibility of more activity in this aspect.

[Khuri] But the government, by owning the TV particularly, has a certain, I think, moral responsibility as well. If there is a debate on a certain political issue, whether it is something very big like the National Charter or foreign policy issues, or something very big like that, or something relatively minor like education policies, or something in the field of agriculture or something, you, as a government, have a moral, I think, moral responsibility to make sure that different views are given access on television. Do you feel today that you have to make sure that all the different opinions that are available in the market place are given equal time on television and radio?

['Izz-al-din] I can't say this now and I can't really judge how one can do it at this time while we don't have any real, let us say, recognized political parties or recognized political groupings. Because of this I would say that it would be much easier in the future when all these political groupings will be organized, they will be legitimate and they will have the chance to present their views. Of course, now we are concentrating mainly on the groupings in Parliament and we are trying our best to give a real good chance to every grouping to, you know, present their point of view. Of course every MP has got the chance to present his point of view but it will be much easier, and rather more coherent if a group would present its view through a spokesman.

Now I feel, when we have this political structure established, it will be much easier and you will know exactly the number of groupings, you will know exactly whom to reach, and of course it will be easier for us and for them.

[Khuri] There has been, I think, quite a clear change in the news of the television, in particular the eight o'clock news in Arabic, the ten o'clock news in English, the French news. There is more honesty, more straight forward reporting. In the bad old days, there used to be issues that were considered very sensitive. If there was a demonstration, nobody would say anything about it. Now you are dealing with these things much more honestly. I mean this must reflect a much broader

attitude on the part of the government to dealing with information, to dealing with the sort of dignity of the people of Jordan, that you treat the people with respect and give them the information that better they get it from their own media than to get from Israel or Voice of America or somebody else. What is the general sort of background to this new kind of policy, of dealing with information in a more honest and complete way?

['Izz-al-Din] I think in a democratic society, that is the normal thing. What we are doing is just a true reflection of, really, media in a democratic society. We just can't do otherwise. I think this is something inherent in any democratic society. Now we have to respect the mind of the audience, we have to respect their ability of choice, we have to give them all the news as they come in a very objective manner, and they have really to choose for their, let us say, they have to choose themselves what to concentrate on and what not to concentrate on. And we should not deceive them.

[Khuri] The people should know what they want.

['Izz-al-Din] Yes, yes, yes. Really we can't, and we should not, and we are not deceiving anybody by making censorship by omission or by emphasizing things more than necessary. We are trying to be as professional as possible, and I think it is working. We have a very good feedback as a result of this policy.

[Khuri] I have noticed—I mean, I watch the eight o'clock news now and the ten o'clock news much more than I used to four or five years ago, because it is more credible. There are still points that one would like to see develop, but I think most people understand that this is a process that has to run its course. You can't instantly change, and I think that probably you have constraints in terms of technical manpower and things like that. It takes time to train people to ....

['Izz-al-Din, interrupting] Yes, I think we have two major professional problems: One is the lack of professional manpower regarding reporting of the news, and another very important thing is the lack of enough trained people, and professional people to interpret the news, because, really, specifically on foreign affairs, you know, these complicated issues, like disarmament, like any major thing that is happening in the world, like the relations between the Soviet Union and the United States—all these things need to be interpreted in a rather simple manner. We don't have so many people, really, who are trained to do this. Now we hope that we can in one way or another widen the scope of people that can contribute to this, because it makes it much easier after seeing a news item, to really, to listen to an expert who can interpret these news and make them a little bit much more at home for many people. [sentence as heard]

[Khuri] Well I would imagine what will happen now that we have a news and a media sector that is more honest and credible and professional, is that you will attract more of good people to go into the media, because historically somebody who went into the media here, into journalism, and was doing well, at some point they would reach a point when they get frustrated because they did not have the freedom to really do what they want and they either go overseas or work with a foreign news agency or leave the media altogether, but now we should see some good, fresh blood coming back into the media.

['Izz-al-Din] We hope so and we hope to attract of course the interest of many university professors that can really do this interpretation of news, and some professionals in many ways. But then, of course, the bulk would depend on the professionals, full-timers, that can help in really covering the news and being able to really convey it to the audience.

[Khuri] In this kind of atmosphere where there is more openness and people can live in a free marketplace of ideas, some people would argue that we don't really need an information ministry, if we have this more open political structure and there is a legal mechanism to make sure that there are laws, for instance libel—you can just call somebody a crook and write something about him and ruin his career or her career without some kind of process of law. If we have that kind of legal system of responsibility and accountability, what does the Information Ministry do? A few years down the road, will we always need an Information Ministry?

['Izz-al-Din] As you very well know, in democracies you don't have ministries of information. I think that Germany is the only European country that I recall there is a minister of information but ...

[Khuri interrupting] Is that a minister or a department ...?

['Izz-al-Din] No, I think he is a minister, a cabinet minister. But other than that, of course there are ... [changes thought] The function is there. I think you need somebody to be a spokesman for the government. I think you need somebody to control the government central office of information. You can call them whatever you want to call them. But definitely I think in relation to the radio and to television, I feel that by time [as heard] they have to be more independent. They are independent already in our laws and in practice. But I feel that by time [as heard] we need to give them more independence and maybe, possibly in the future, they will have some sort of a board that would govern their activities and that will have representatives from all aspects of life to ensure independence and coverage in an unbiased manner. This is done in so many countries.

Regarding of course the agency, PETRA, of course ...

[Khuri, interrupting] The news agency.

['Izz-al-Din] The news agency. I think one should activate it in a way to be more professional. It is really now professional. They do a very good job, and if one can see our newspapers, they depend very much on their coverage. But I feel they have to be a little bit more flexible. I think they have to be a little bit more able to cover news in a more professional way without the inhibitions of being a government employee. I feel it will come; I am not sure how and when it will be coming, but I feel that would, should be the second step. Now you need to have a central office of information—you can call it whatever

you call it. And you need somebody to head it, whether you call him a minister or not. But you need somebody to carry, to be an offical spokesman to the government and to carry this government business, actually, of information, in one way or another. But I agree with you that at a certain moment I don't think, I don't know if the need will continue to have a minister of information.

[Khuri] May be you will make history by being the first minister to put himself out of his own job?

['Izz-al-Din, laughing] I don't know, I don't know.

[Khuri] Because one of the things that should be considered, down the road, both for political and financial considerations is the privatization of the news agency, the TV, and the radio. I mean, you've said that the PETRA, the national news agency, like the Royal Jordanian airline and others, they could be run as a private corporation if the service they provide is not demanded by the marketplace. And if people will not pay money for it, and they cannot be run efficiently—whether it is TV or radio or news agency, or whatever it may be—then maybe there is no need for it. Maybe this is just a historical hangover from the fifties when we needed information ministries pumping out propaganda. But maybe today if there is no need in the market, then there is no demand for the product—maybe there should be no role for the institution!

['Izz-al-Din] Of course, regarding the ownership, I feel that ownership should remain with the government. If we look at the BBC or the French Television also, they are government-owned. Of course, sometimes they give the chance to other commercial radio and TV stations, but then they have the basic quality in the sort of organization to be government-owned. And I think that is going to continue in our country. But the way that you run it—the governing body that would run it—would have all sorts of people that can ensure, let us say, more flexibility in management and less government involvement—I think by time this could be a good policy now, and I think the same thing would go in relation to the news agency. I think the AGENCE FRANCE PRESS, for instance, it is almost government-owned. But you just can't link it very much to the French Government. It is a very credible, independent organization. So, I think one should ensure independence. Ownership is something else. But one should ensure independence, and try to separate between ownership and the independence.

[Khuri] Is this something that you're working on now, or it will have to wait till the charter is out?

['Izz-al-Din] We are going to wait for the charter. I think, after the charter we are going to concentrate on the newspapers, and giving the possibility for new dailies and weeklies. And at the same time we are going to have a new law to govern press and publication. So, I think that would be the first move, because it is going to be immediate. After that we will try to look into possibilities regarding the—let us say—radio and television.

[Khuri] The solid area that you've mentioned is the one of the international press: dealing with foreign journalists in the whole international media scene. And this has become particularly, I think, visible in Jordan during the last couple of months with the Gulf crisis, because at one point we had something like four or five hundred foreign journalists, and I've noticed a very clear change in the last year with the government no longer censoring the international press that comes to it. I think the only areas where I see censorship still is in issues of morality and things like that, which is culturally understandable. But, in terms of the political news, we don't have to go through the humiliation of having a page ripped out of a magazine or something like that. Is this a policy that is part of the overall information package?

['Izz-al-Din] I feel Jordan is traditionally one of the countries that welcomed always pressmen coming from all parts of our world, and any pressman can find his way in our capital or anywhere in the country. He can meet whoever he would like to meet. Our officials are accessible, and our journalists are cooperative and our people in general really don't shy at all in their dealings with the foreign press. So, I feel this has been really traditional in Jordan; it is not very new. What is new is the number of the people who are coming, and the way that so many people reacted in this particular moment.

I think, maybe for the first time, everyone who could talk to the foreign press had a chance to talk to major television stations all over the world, to be interviewed and to voice his opinion. That is extremely good and extremely new in our society. Of course, there is a great interest: Jordan has been extremely active during the last few months in relation to the Gulf crisis and in relation to the area in general. And I think we were extremely helped as a government by so many points of view coming across the board from all over walks of life in Jordan, presenting a point of view which looked to be credible and articulate, and it could convey a very, let us say, direct message to the world. So, from the very negative reporting about Jordan that started in the foreign press two months ago, I feel that there is some change now. You can feel that the position of Jordan is a little bit more understood, it is better analyzed, and there is another way of looking into things.

[Khuri] One of the things that has been very interesting in this crisis is the way that many Jordanians have responded: people are taking a more activist attitude; they are writing letters; they are contacting people; they are raising money; they are taking self-defense courses. They are becoming dynamic; they are coming to life in a way. The people of Jordan have come to life where in past situations of political tension and crises, people sort of just laid low, because they didn't feel that they had the environment in which they could be politically active or even express themselves. But, we are dealing in a different situation now, and I've run into a lot of people who have been taking initiatives, writing letters and doing things of this nature. Do you anticipate that as our political development continues that we will see the free

flow of information itself having an impact on greater political activism, and ultimately, on foreign affairs not just domestic affairs?

['Izz-al-Din] I think so, and it has already started, like I've just mentioned. People in a free society, in a democratic society, are asked by all sorts of incentives to deal with any situation, because they don't have any obstacles, and as a human being, if you don't have any obstacles, then normally you have to behave in a way to express your view and to be active and to write a letter if you can write a letter; or to talk if you want to talk; or to do whatever activity that you would like to do in order to express your views. I think the restrictions have gone. So, once these restrictions have gone, you are going to get the best of—you know—all of the people concerned in one way or another. And in many ways one should emphasize that in all this, people were disciplined and they were extremely aware of the national interest of the country, and they know exactly where to stop talking, or where to stop doing something, or what to do. So, I feel if you trust the people, you will be in a better shape. All societies in one way or another, know their interest and know how to express their interest. The most important thing is to find the proper channels to do so and to give them the chance to do so, and to try to cooperate and build the atmosphere of trust between all the different activists, and these activists and the government. And I think this is being built in one way or another in our country.

[Khuri] Well, we've certainly seen some results: It is interesting to note how one day some demonstrations—when was it?—in May, I think, or June, after the killings in Gaza, there were some demonstrations and some windows were broken. There were some clashes with the police. This week there were demonstrations again, people expressing their anger against what has happened in Palestine. And there has been—as far as I have seen—no violence. So people have learned as they get a chance to practice democracy in a free society: You can express your opinions, but without damaging anybody else's property or preventing anybody else from speaking. Also, I was intrigued to see that people are now allowed to go demonstrating in front of the American Embassy, and there are groups of demonstrators, and it is disciplined, and they stand on the other side of the street, and they hold up their placards and say what they want. This was never allowed in the past, but the people rise to their responsibility if they are given it.

['Izz-al-Din] Yes, I think by training and by confidence you can reach this position by which people can express their views by marching in the streets. It is not a demonstration, because the demonstration is against basically the government of the day, while the march is possibly against an issue that is not necessary a local issue. So, I think all these marches, like every other city in the world where democracy is there, could be organized, and it is being organized. I think the answer to this is the trust that you can create—the climate of trust and understanding that you can create in any society, and I think if you create this, people will respond beautifully.

[Khuri] And you are convinced, both as an individual and as an official, that this is irrevocable policy that the decision has been taken at the highest level in Jordan to go ahead with this and to pursue it?

['Izz-al-Din] Yes, actually the moment that the decision was taken to introduce democratic institutions in this country, I think you have to accept democracy as a package; and as a package it has all the elements of freedom of expression, freedom of movement, and all sorts of respect to human beings and human rights. So, democracy is a package; once actually it has been accepted, it is going to be implemented.

[Khuri] On that hopeful note, we've had a lot of time, and we have to thank you very much, Ibrahim, for being with us, and we look forward to continuing this experience. And, it would be nice to talk to you a couple of years down the road and look back on what you've started, and I think people particularly are impressed by many of the things that you personally have done as minister, and we hear this from the foreign press and the local press, that I think part of the credibility that is being felt does reflect your own personal honesty and credibility. On behalf of the press people in Jordan, I should express special thanks to you for the role that you've played, and thanks for being with us again.

['Izz-al-Din] Thank you. Thank you very much.

Hasan Discusses Embargo Impact With Officials

JN1510083890 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 14 Oct 90

[Text] His royal highness the crown prince met today with the visiting UN envoy Jean-Robert Simonise. The meeting dealt with Jordan's economic problems resulting from the implementation of the Security Council resolution of sanctions against Iraq. In an earlier meeting with the UN envoy, the crown prince spoke about the effects of the embargo on the Jordanian economy, humanitarian aid provided to evacuees from Iraq and Kuwait, and the contingency plan to deal with any flow of evacuees. The crown prince also referred to Jordan's burdens related to conditions in the Palestinian arena. The crown prince said Jordan is making a review of all measures taken in implementing the embargo against Iraq.

The UN envoy explained his mission to study the effects on Jordan of the implementation of the UN resolution regarding the Gulf crisis. He has made an estimate of the losses of the Jordanian economy, and was informed of measures taken to implement those resolutions. The crown prince said losses of Jordanians returning from Kuwait and compensating those losses should be taken into consideration. The meeting was attended by Mr. Ripert's assistant; the UN resident representative; the ministers of finance, industry, and trade; and the secretary general of the Ministry of Planning.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan received at his office the assistant secretary general at the Canadian

Foreign Ministry (Raymond Cratine). His highness was briefed by the Canadian official on his visits to a number of states in the region. The crown prince reviewed with Mr. (Cratine) the developments in the Gulf and means to find a peaceful settlement to the Gulf crisis. His highness explained Jordan's stance vis-a-vis the Gulf Crisis and Jordan's economic losses as a result of implementing the UN embargo against Iraq. Discussions touched on ways of tackling the country's economic problems and the role of the Canadian Government in this regard. The meeting was attended by the Canadian charge d'affaires in Amman.

Physicians Take Peace Appeal to U.S. Embassy

JN1410203690 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1630 GMT 14 Oct 90

[Text] Amman, 14 Oct (PETRA)—The Society of Jordanian Physicians to Prevent Nuclear War organized a silent march toward the U.S. Embassy in Amman this morning. It handed embassy officials a letter addressed to U.S. President George Bush.

In the letter, the physicians appealed to the U.S. President to seek a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis, prevent war in the region, and maintain dialogue and diplomatic solutions as the only possible options to resolve the crisis.

If war breaks out in the Gulf, they said, it will be destructive to the region and the world in general, especially in light of strong reports that 450 nuclear warheads have been massed in the Gulf.

We, as physicians, have sworn to preserve man's health and well-being, and we call upon you to join us under this oath and work seriously toward the elimination of tension in the Gulf and the prevention of the massacres in Jerusalem against defenseless Palestinians, they added.

The march set off from a point in front of the Islamic Scientific College, with 150 physicians raising banners condemning Monday's massacre perpetrated by the Israeli authorities against defenseless Palestinians in the al-Aqsa mosque plaza. Slogans also called for achieving a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis, keeping the spectre of destructive war away from the region, and withdrawing foreign forces from the Arabian Peninsula.

Soviet Articles on Withdrawal Arouse 'Contempt'

JN1210134090 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 12 Oct 90 p 14

["Highlights" by Dr. Fahd al-Fanik: "Soviet Media Arouses Contempt Rather Than Anger"]

[Text] When the USSR showed the first signs of abandoning its political role as a superpower, we were shocked whenever Soviet statements were made by government officials or published in the press. And when the USSR showed signs of subservience to the United States we became angry. Now, however, matters have reached such a point that the positions of the USSR and its media not only arouse regret and anger, but contempt.

The last weekly NOVOSTI bulletin released by the Soviet Embassy in Amman on 3 October 1990 contained several items on the Gulf crisis. In their articles, the Soviet authors assume that the Arab reader is either stupid or naive.

A comment by a woman writer described by the bulletin as a well-known Soviet expert on Israeli politics says that what took place in the Gulf served the interests of the Israeli forces. If this were true, the deployment of the U.S. forces in the Gulf would be contrary to the interests of Israel.

The false expert adds that Israeli diehards are now sleeping comfortably since the world community is busy with the Gulf. However, we ask: Does the distribution of 4 million gas masks in Israel reflect a feeling of reassurance and comfort? Does Israel's ugly massacre in Jerusalem show that the world community has forgotten the Israeli ocupation? If the Soviet Union is so concerned about the Palestine question, why does it reject the simultaneous resolution of the Gulf crisis and the problem of the Israeli occupation? Do international law and UN Security Council resolutions deserve respect when they are against the Arabs, and do they deserve to be forgotten when they are against Israeli occupation?

In another article, the NOVOSTI editor says justice will not be achieved in the Gulf region unless Iraqi forces withdraw from Kuwait in accordance with the UN resolutions. The editor does not explain what he means by justice. He does not say anything about achieving justice through the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the West Bank, Gaza, Syria, and Lebanon.

The NOVOSTI editor is lying when he says Iraq refuses to respond to the resolutions of the international organization. He forgets that on 12 August 1990, Iraq demanded the implementation of all UN resolutions concerning the Middle East.

The NOVOSTI writer insulted the Arab President Saddam Husayn, saying that his statements are "aggressive" and that he opposes the entire world community. Yet the United States itself admits that Saddam's statements and initiatives are peaceful and defensive. We also know that Saddam is confronting U.S. imperialist aggression, not the international community.

The Soviet news agency has stooped so low as to describe Arab sympathy with Iraq as showing Arab naivete. It also describes Muslims' resentment of the presence of the U.S. forces and their rabbis in the country of the two holy mosques as the reaction of the Muslim "simpleton"—in other words, the stupid Muslim.

The USSR is linked to Iraq by a friendship society which is still valid. It was also the main exporter of arms to Iraq. So, what has happened? Has Iraq and its leadership changed, or has the USSR changed, so that it is no longer socialist or Soviet?

Government Troops Surround French Embassy

NC1610101290 Paris AFP in English 1007 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Text] Beirut, Oct 16 (AFP)—Lebanese Army forces surrounded the French embassy Tuesday, a day after French President Francois Mitterrand reaffirmed his country's commitment to grant General Michel 'Awn political asylum, diplomatic sources here said.

Dozens of soldiers backed by tanks blocked all the roads leading to the French embassy, where the Christian military leader was holed up since a Syrian-led operation Saturday forced his surrender.

Cabinet Members Comment on Al-Matn Violence

NC1510073490 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 15 Oct 90

[Text] Following his meeting with Patriarch Sfayr, Minister George Sa'adah has denounced actions by the Syrian Social Nationalist Party [SSNP] in the al-Matn regions. He said: We will not allow anyone to exploit the situation. We have not obliterated the rebellion in order to create similar cases against the people. He said: We will allow no one to obstruct the peace process. He described the situation as delicate and the phase as difficult. He said: We must prove that we can face up to our responsibilities.

Patriarch Sfayr yesterday received a delegation from al-Matn region, who reviewed the practices committed by SSNP members against al-Matn, its people and youths, and their property. The delegation called on all officials to realize the seriousness of what is taking place and take action before a disaster occurs.

Meanwhile, Defense Minister Albert Mansur said: We have taken immediate measures to stop any abnormal practices. He noted that the army command has issued strict instructions to all personnel to confront any act of aggression against any civilian. He said that military police teams were dispatched yesterday afternoon to deploy in all areas where we heard abnormal actions had occurred. He said that orders were given to these teams to confront by force anyone who might embark on these acts, disturb security, or assault civilians.

Sa'adah Issues 'Ultimatum' on Al-Matn Violence

NC1510113290 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 15 Oct 90

[Excerpts] Phalangist Party Leader Minister Dr. George Sa'adah has given an ultimatum to all those who are involved in improper practices in al-Matn and B'abda. He stressed that the Phalangist Party can never tolerate such a situation. The ultimatum was addressed during the expanded meeting of the party's Political Bureau, Central Council, and Consultative Council which was held at the party's regional headquarters in Kasrawan at noon today.

At the beginning of the meeting, Dr. Sa'adah appealed to all Phalangists in B'abda and al-Matn to rally around the original principles of the party. He said: At every meeting, we used to appeal to our colleagues to rise above trivialities and act rationally. Unfortunately, nobody listened to our appeals. We paid the price because of the man who had claimed to defend the cause, he said.

Dr. Sa'adah said: We will be the heroes of peace in the same way as we were the heroes of war. We worked to end the mutiny rather than to create a new mutiny. Such a mutiny exists in al-Matn and B'abda at present, and we can never tolerate that. I appeal to the state to quickly put an end to all this. If our colleagues there are trying to avoid trouble, this does not mean that we will submit to these practices.

If matters are not settled very soon, he said, I will be the first to march at the forefront of Phalangists toward al-Matn. Al- Matn has been, and will continue to be the center of Phalangists. [passage omitted]

On the Syrian deployment, Sa'adah said: The Al-Ta'if agreement is very clear in this connection. The deployment must be conducted by the legitimate forces, which can seek the help of the Syrian Army if necessary. The al-Ta'if agreement provides for the full Syrian withdrawal from areas extending as far as al-Biqa' during a period of two years at the maximum. Some are manipulating this issue. However, only right is right, and the near future will prove that. [passage omitted]

SSNP Leader Reacts to Ja'ja' Statement

NC1510104890 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 15 Oct 90

[Statement issued by Marwan Faris, chairman of the Syrian Social Nationalist Party Political Bureau's Higher Council; place, date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] The news conference held by Samir Ja'ja' expresses only the great panic that the Lebanese Forces feel about the Greater Beirut plan extending from al-Damur to Nahr al-Kalb. Since the essence of the Lebanese Forces' plan is to assume control by force, it is horrified by any peace plan. The Lebanese Forces are trying to project their own evil on others. The Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] is a time-honored ideological party that has made basic and drastic contributions to Lebanese political life. If the militias were to be dissolved, the PSP would survive. But if the Lebanese Forces militia were dissolved, it would have no effect on Lebanon's future. The Lebanese Forces will only leave vestiges of their sinful and oppressive legacy of eviction of people and of destruction. Even if the legitimate government fails to hold trials, the verdict of the people and history will be hard on those who possess no ideology or principles.

SSNP Seizes Phalangist Center From Hubayqah Forces

NC1610084790 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Text] Commenting on the ongoing violations, security sources have told our radio that a dispute among [former Lebanese Forces Commander Elie] Hubayqah-led elements and members of the Syrian Social Nationalist Party [SSNP] yesterday developed into a shootout between the two sides for control of the Phalangist Party's center in Jall al-Dhi'b.

According to reports, the Hubayqah group, led by Joe 'Aql, arrived first and took up positions at the center. The SSNP group, under the command of George Bajjani, then seized the center and turned it into a military post, after giving an ultimatum to Hubayqah's group to evacuate the area immediately.

Hizballah Source on Clashes With Hubayqah Forces

NC1610095090 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Text] A responsible Hizballah source has explained the circumstances surrounding the reported clashes between Hizballah elements and groups of the [former Lebanese Forces Commander] Elie Hubayqah-led Phalangist forces.

He said: According to reports, the Red Cross discovered the bodies of four citizens from al-Laylakah, three of whom belonged to the Hajjulah family and one to the Ibrahim family. The party has no connection whatsoever with these persons and the circumstances surrounding their death remain unknown. According to Hubayqah's sources, his men claim responsibility for killing these persons, the source said.

He added: The circumstances and the details of this massacre must be explained, because one party cannot claim to have the upper hand over another. However, we found Hubayqah and Ja'ja' troops trying to inflame feelings and sow disagreements in order to create a role for themselves to play.

The source added: The joint efforts of Hubayqah and Ja'ja' to arouse sectarian feuds are worthy of attention. Our Christian neighbors know us as well as we know them and there is no need for any worn-out political rhetoric.

The source continued: In view of the confusion prevailing in the areas which had been controlled by 'Awn, we had to take certain measures to protect the people and their lives and property.

Asked about the fate of the soldiers formerly under 'Awn's command who surrendered to Hizballah, the source said: We turned over the forces who surrendered to us to the forces commanded by General Emile Lahhud.

Syrian Troops To Withdraw From Al-Matn Streets

NC1610102690 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Text] Press sources have reported that Syrian troops will withdraw from the streets of al-Matn and will take up positions in specified sites from which they will set out to assist the Lebanese Army troops when necessary. The Syrian troops, in conjunction with the Lebanese Army, may set up joint roadblocks in some areas that are considered sensitive.

The same sources added that a military committee had been formed to supervise the elimination of displays of military force in al- Matn areas. In addition, a security committee was established to receive complaints from the public.

Troops in Eastern Area Under Army Control

NC1510073790 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 15 Oct 90

[Text] A military source in the Lebanese Army command has made the following statement:

The military troops deployed in the eastern areas of Beirut are acting under the control of the legitimate command and are taking orders from Lebanese Army Commander General Emile Lahhud. At present, these troops are requested to remain at their posts and take care of their equipment.

The army command has ordered the elements which left their posts to return to them. The command will continue to provide security and protection to these troops until they are reorganized under the leadership of officers who will be in charge of them.

As for the improper practices and the limited rioting involving certain parties who tried to utilize the chaos created in the course of reuniting the army, the army command reminds them that the sacrifices it has made should not be countered by such excesses. The command is serious about handling these excesses and will not let anything hamper its march.

Birri Criticizes French Actions Concerning 'Awn

NC1610094790 Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon in Arabic 0700 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Text] Minister Nabih Birri has reacted to French President Francois Mitterrand's statement [on asylum for 'Awn] by saying: I would like to remind President Mitterrand that the era of [the French] mandate is over, we will not allow a French ruler to issue orders to us.

Minister Birri characterized Mitterrand's statement as an implicit threat. He said that France is not acting in the interests of all Lebanese. He reiterated that the Lebanese Government will not permit General 'Awn to leave Lebanon.

President Meets With Syrian Military Delegation

NC1510164590 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 15 Oct 90

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi voiced Lebanon's great appreciation and thanks to [Syrian] President Hafiz al-Asad for the Syrian forces' pan-Arab role in supporting the Lebanese Army in ending the military and political mutiny in the eastern area.

A delegation representing the Syrian Arab forces in Lebanon visited President Ilyas al-Hirawi today at noon at the temporary presidential office in al-Ramlah al-Bayda'. The delegation consisted of Major General Sa'id Bayraqdar, commander of the Syrian forces in Lebanon; Maj. Gen. 'Izzat Zaydan; Maj. Gen. Zuhayr Mufattat; Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an, chief of Syrian military intelligence in Lebanon; and Lieutenant Colonel Rustum Ghazali, head of the Syrian observers in Lebanon.

Meanwhile, the Syrian command [as heard] has issued unequivocal instructions that all transgressions by militia men should be emphatically dealt with in accordance with the directives specified during a meeting chaired by Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss and attended by Ministers Albert Mansur and Muhsin Dallul as well as Army Commander General Emile Lahhud.

In another development, Lebanese Army units and Syrian troops continue to reinforce their positions from al-Hadath up to al-Matn and Kasrawan. Additional military troops, vehicles, and hardware were dispatched to these areas. Engineering corps teams have dismantled mines and barriers from roads that lead to the al-Matn region.

Bulldozers reopened the Mar Mikha'il-Galerie Sim'an crossing point and the Dahr al-Wahsh-'Alayh crossing point, thus making the Beirut-Damascus highway passable for the first time since 1985. Furthermore, the newly established crossing points in the eastern areas, including the Nahr al-Kalb-al-Dubayyah and Nahr-al-Mawt-Jisr al-Fiat points, were also reopened. Moreover, the al-Barbir-Museum point has been reopened for traffic.

Expatriates Urged to Regain Confidence in Lebanon

NC1610100090 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi has called on Lebanese expatriates to regain confidence in their country as the ultimate homeland of all its citizens. He affirmed that the regime will reopen the crossing points and will set the state's mechanism in motion so that life may return to normal and the deterioration come to an end.

The president thanked the sisterly and friendly states for the understanding they have shown to the military operation that the regime was compelled to carry out, considering that General 'Awn's continued rebellion had almost killed all hopes of reuniting the country and restoring the legitimate command of the army establishment, thus making it the only tool for extending the state's authority. This will ensure the recovery of the south, through the implementation of the UN Security Council resolution and the disbanding of the militias.

President al-Hirawi promised to reactivate all the state's institutions so all Lebanese will be able to exercise their right to express their political views by democratic means, with the ultimate objective of holding parliamentary and municipal elections.

Al-Qadhdhafi Phones Al-Asad, Discusses Lebanon

JN1410191590 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 14 Oct 90

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad this evening received a telephone call from Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the 1 September Revolution in Libya, in which he talked about ending the 'Awn rebellion. Al-Qadhdhafi stressed that what has happened is great and is considered an important development that serves Lebanon and the Arab interest. He also said that with this telephone call, he wanted to share Syria's feelings on this important occasion.

Arab conditions and issues of concern to the two countries were also discussed during the telephone conversation.

Paper Says Israeli Intransigence Threatens Detente

JN1510072990 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 15 Oct 90

[From the press review]

[Text] TISHRIN comments on the enemy government's rejection of the UN Security Council resolution on the [Jerusalem] massacre and refusal to cooperate with the UN mission to investigate this crime, which was committed by the Israeli troops and Zionist settlers against the Palestinian citizens.

The paper says: This is not the first time Israel has rejected UN resolutions, ignored international will, and stuck to its hostile policies against the Arabs—policies which violate international law.

TISHRIN adds: The international community realizes that the state of detente, which exists on the ground in various forms, is still exposed to the danger of deterioration because of the events in the region and Israel's intransigence toward the just peace. This must ultimately lead to practical measures that are able to deter the Israeli intransigence and impose the international laws regarding the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people and ending the Israeli occupation of Arab territories.

Paper Says 'Awn Defeat Will Revive Lebanon

JN1410074890 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 14 Oct 90

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Ending the Rebellion is a Decisive Move Toward Implementing the al-Ta'if Accord," the newspaper AL- BA'TH affirms in its editorial today that ending Michel 'Awn's rebellion can be viewed as a very important accomplishment along the road to implementing the al-Ta'if accord. This rebellion had obstructed the work of the legitimate institutions and was about to tear the country apart.

The paper adds: Ending this rebellion is a decisive step that will revive the Lebanese homeland. It will certainly lead to the unification of Lebanon and to the extension of legitimate control over all Lebanese soil. It will also restore the normal operation of the legitimate government's institutions. It goes without saying that the legitimate government has to perform a great deal of serious national action in order to do what has to be done within the shortest period to extend state control over the entire Lebanese soil, ensure security and stability, return the refugees, and reconstruct what has been ravaged by the war. More important than all this is the dissolution and removal of the armed militias in implementation of the al-Ta'if accord. Here, we must stress the need to see all parties in Lebanon heed the message addressed by Lebanese President al-Hirawi to the Lebanese people—the message in which he affirmed the need to close ranks, rise above rancor and malice, and unite in a national endeavor to lead Lebanon to peace, security, and stability.

Concluding its editorial, AL-BA'TH says: We in Syria are not less happy over what happened in Lebanon. We might even be happier than they are over these developments. This is because closing the Lebanese file will greatly help us give our undivided attention to our pan-Arab issues. Syria will remain, as leader al-Asad affirmed, constantly ready to extend the necessary help and assistance to this fraternal country which is linked to Syria by the closest and strongest ties.

The newspaper TISHRIN comments on the same issue and says: Lebanese citizens received with great jubiliation and satisfaction the fall of the den of mutiny and the restoration by the legitimate government of East Beirut, which had actually been taken hostage and subjected to domination, blackmail, and terrorism. As for the East Beirut residents, they took to the streets and crowded the courtyards welcoming the entry of the legitimate government's troops and shouting slogans upholding the unity of the country.

The paper adds: President al-Asad devoted a great deal of his efforts and attention to the fraternal country, out of a belief that Syria and Lebanon are one people residing in two countries and that the kinship and family ties binding them require that all possible help be extended to the fraternal Lebanese and that no hesitation be shown in making all possible sacrifices, especially considering that Lebanon is being exposed to a grand external conspiracy targeting its Arabism, history, and future.

The paper asserts that the Lebanese national accord was Syria's main concern and preoccupation. The paper adds: As for Israel, it did not budge a hairbreadth from its plan to destroy the unity of the fraternal country and to ignite conflagrations there. We can safely say that the Zionist schemes were dealt two heavy blows, the first when Syria managed, in cooperation with honorable Lebanese forces, to thwart the 17 May agreement, and the second when Syria managed, in cooperation with the legitimate Lebanese Government's troops, to end the mutiny led by 'Awn and his clique. Helping the legitimate government to regain control over East Beirut which was taken hostage and ending the mutiny will

enable the national accord cabinet to tackle the sharp crisis which sought to undermine the Lebanese people's will to achieve unity, and accord, and consecrate their Arab identity.

In one of its commentaries and under the headline "Syria is Faithful to its Pan-Arab Commitments," the newspaper AL-THAWRAH affirms that what Syria did for Lebanon this time was merely new evidence of its firm and constant pan-Arab positions which have continued to be demonstrated since the inception of Lebanon's internal strife more than 15 years ago. Likewise, the help and assistance that Syria extended to the legitimate Lebanese Government's Army, which is a pan-Arab duty, to end the rebellion also expressed commitment to the national reconciliation document which won the unanimous support of various Lebanese parties and international backing.

Concluding its commentary, AL-THAWRAH says: Syria will always remain fully ready to extend the necessary support and assistance to fraternal Lebanon in the interest of the twin countries and to strengthen the fraternal ties between them in order to help bring a bright future for them and for the entire Arab nation.

Al-Shar' Meets Mauritanian Counterpart in Rabat

JN1510174790 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 15 Oct 90

[Text] Rabat—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' met on the sidelines of the Jerusalem Committee meetings in Rabat with Mauritanian Foreign Minister Hasni Ould Didi in the presence of Syrian Ambassador to Morocco 'Ali Hasan and the Mauritanian ambassador to Morocco.

They discussed bilateral relations and the situation in the region, the Gulf crisis in particular. Viewpoints converged that any Arab effort must stem from the principle of the unconditional withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait and the restoration of legitimacy in accordance with the Arab summit resolutions.

The two ministers agreed on continuing contacts and consultations between Syria and Mauritania to achieve a unified Arab stand on the Gulf crisis.

Soviet General Visits, Lauds Syrian Friendship

JN1510185090 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1630 GMT 15 Oct 90

[Text] Damascus, 15 Oct (SANA)—Colonel General Nikolay Kotlovtsev, chairman of the Central Committee of the Voluntary Society for the Promotion of the Army, Aviation, and Navy, DOSAAF, who is also a member of the CPSU Central Committee and the Supreme Soviet Presidium, and his accompanying delegation left Damascus this morning at the end of a week-long visit to Syria at the invitation of the Popular Army.

In a pre-departure statement, the Soviet official praised the friendship and cooperation which exists between the two friendly countries, relations that are constantly progressing. He said that President Hafiz al-Asad's last visit to the Soviet Union has contributed to enhancing these good relations, which have future prospects. He voiced appreciation for Syria's political role in this sensitive region and for its independent, progressive policy.

Afghanistan

Militia Commander Killed in Attack on Mosque

BK1310005490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1800 GMT 12 Oct 90

[Text] Kabul, Oct 12 (AFP)—Gunmen shot dead a militia commander and seven of his men in a raid on the historic Blue Mosque in Afghanistan's western state of Herat on Friday, officials here said. An unspecified number were also injured.

The assassins, believed to be activists from the mujahidin resistance fighting the Soviet-backed Afghan Government, gunned down Zahim Ahmad while he was in prayer, the officials said. Mr. Ahmad, 29, and seven of his men died instantly, they said without giving details.

Mr. Ahmad, who leads a militia force of some 5,000 men, was formerly a mujahidin activist before he signed a non-aggression pact and switched to the government side three years ago. Mr. Ahmad, who wielded a considerable influence with government authorities in Herat Province, which bordered Iran and the Soviet Union, had been critical of leaders of mujahidin factions based in neighbouring Pakistan.

Official sources here believe Mr. Ahmad's slaying could be due to inter-militia rivalries or to avenge the murder of Dawood Shahib, another militia group commander who was killed in similar incident in Herat in August. No one has claimed reponsibility for the mosque attack.

Clashes Continue Between Armed Forces, Mujahidin

Rebel Vehicles Destroyed

LD1510140690 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1330 GMT 15 Oct 90

[Text] Two vehicles loaded with arms and ammunition belonging to the extremists were destroyed and burnt down as a result of air attack by the Armed Forces. The BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY military section reports that the mentioned arms and ammunition which included gun, heavy machineguns, and surface-to-surface missiles, were being transported to some parts of Wardaq Province.

Mujahidin Blow Up Arms Depot

BK1510144990 Hong Kong AFP in English 1422 GMT 15 Oct 90

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, Oct 15 (AFP)—An Afghan mujahedeen squad blew up a large Kabul government arms depot in Afghanistan's Herat Province, resistance sources said here Monday. Hundreds of heavy and small arms and dozens of mines and missiles stored in the depot, located at Deazah in the Guzarah district of Herat, were destroyed in the attack led by guerrilla commander Ismail Khan on Sunday, they said.

A representative of Cmdr. Khan attended a meeting of Afghan guerrilla chiefs near the Topkhana pass in Afghanistan's Badakhshan Province last week, which decided to launch joint operations to capture major cities, they noted. The information wing of the mujahedeen's Pakistan-based interim government said the successful raid on the arms depot followed the killing of Kabul militia area commander Sayed Ahmad at a mosque in Herat on Friday.

It said the mujahedeen had succeeded in setting up posts in the western part of Herat city. In Parwan Province, west of Kabul, the guerrillas captured three posts killing 15 soldiers, the mujahedeen government department said, adding that five mujahedeen died in the operations.

Factional Clashes Kill Rebels

LD1510211590 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 15 Oct 90

[Text] In continuation of armed clashes and discord among the extremist groups of Gulbuddin and Rabbani, heavy clashes have taken place recently among the two rival groups in some parts of the districts of Pashton Kot and Belcheragh, Faryab province.

The BAKHTAR military section reports that as a result of these clashes, during which both sides resorted to heavy weapons and various types of missiles, 12 persons including Sayed Ghazi were killed from both sides and 19 others were wounded. Serious clashes still continue.

A commander of the Gilani group, Ajab Khan was killed recently along with seven of his men in some regions of the district of Choki, Konarah province by the men of Wahhabi Sayyaf group. The BAKHTAR military section reports that the killing of Ajab Khan and his men was caused by internal disagreement and over the distribution of goods stolen from the people which has been carried out by Jan Dad, a ringleader of Sayyaf group.

Mujahidin Intercept Convoy

BK1610113890 Hong Kong AFP in English 1111 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Text] Islamabad, Oct 16 (AFP)—Mujahidin attacked and dispersed a Kabul government relief convoy in Afghanistan's Zabol Province, Western diplomats here said Tuesday. The convoy consisting of some 2,000 soldiers and militiamen, 13 tanks and about 60 vehicles was sent from Qandahar to relieve the beseiged garrison at Qalat, they said.

The mujahidin attacked the convoy midway between the cities of Qandahar and Qalat and forced it to disperse by Sunday, the diplomats said, adding that government bombing had failed to drive the guerrillas off. A force of only about 500 government troops remained "intact" and they were negotiating their surrender with the mujahidin, the diplomats said.

The resistance captured or destroyed many tanks, vehicles and artillery pieces in addition to shooting down one helicopter and capturing another in working condition, they said. The head of a pro-Kabul Nurezai Tribal Militia based at Maiwan was severely wounded in the attack, the diplomats said.

Bangladesh

Nationals Advised To Enter Jordan by 18 Oct

BK1410132890 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 14 Oct 90

[Text] Bangladesh has advised its nationals in Kuwait and Iraq to avail the facilities of direct repatriation from Jordan by Thursday, the 18th of this month. According to Foreign Office sources in Dhaka Sunday, those Bangladeshis willing to return home will have to cross the Iraq-Jordan border at al-Ruwayshid by the specified date. After that the repatriation camp in Jordan will be closed. Besides, the returnees will have to obtain visas to enter Jordan after the suspension of repatriation arrangements.

Students Strike To Protest Activists' Deaths

Attack Vehicles in Dhaka

BK1310053990 Hong Kong AFP in English 0533 GMT 13 Oct 90

[Text] Dhaka, Oct 13 (AFP)—Several hundred students went on the rampage Saturday as a strike in schools across Bangladesh took effect to protest the killing of at least six activists during anti-government demonstrations. Students from two colleges in Tejgaon industrial area suddenly attacked passing vehicles and damaged them, police said, adding "we do not yet know what sparked off the rampage."

One police officer in farm gate area said "possibly there was an accident involving a student, which caused the students to attack the passing vehicles, but I cannot confirm it." The powerful Dhaka University Central Students Union (DUCSU) and 22 political student organisations called for Saturday's nationwide strike in schools to protest the deaths of those killed Wednesday, when police fired on anti-government demonstrators.

Scores of people, including chairman of the leading opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party, Begum Khaleda Zia, and several top members of the DUCSU, were injured during the demonstrations. The government said five people were killed during Wednesday's violent clashes, but the opposition claims that six were shot dead. The bodies of the dead were handed over to their relatives Thursday by government officials, sources said.

Police Clash With Rioters

BK1310063690 Hong Kong AFP in English 0631 GMT 13 Oct 90

[Text] Dhaka, Oct 13 (AFP)—Police fired teargas and used batons Saturday as students set ablaze two cars and damaged several passing vehicles during a school strike across Bangladesh, security officials said. "Chase counterchase is continuing and students are throwing bricks and stones at security personnel," an officer at the Tejgaon police station said.

Students from two colleges in Tejgaon industrial area suddenly attacked passing vehicles and damaged them, police said. A government car was torched by unidentified attackers, possibly student activists, in front of the downtown National Press Club, witnesses said.

Unconfirmed reports said the car was carrying a government minister.

Rush hour traffic was jammed in the city center Saturday after being diverted from Tejgaon District. The powerful Dhaka University Central Students Union and 22 other student organisations called Saturday's strike to protest the deaths of activists in police gunfire during anti-government demonstrations Wednesday.

The government says that five people were killed in clashes between activists and police, but the opposition claims that six were shot dead. Scores of people were injured during the protests, including the chairman of the leading opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), Begum Khaleda Zia, and several top members of the Dhaka University union.

The bodies of the dead were handed over to their relatives Thursday by government officials, sources said, adding that they have already been buried in their village homes. Student leaders said they were determined to achieve the targets of their campaign.

"Mr. Ershad has to go and pay for the blood sacrificed by the martyrs during his military rule," one of the students said. They added that if need be, they would try to bring together the two feuding opposition leaders, Begum Zia and Sheikh Hasina Wajed of the opposition Awami League.

A brief unity in 1987 between the two women nearly toppled the regime of President Hussain Mohammad Ershad in this politically volatile South Asian nation. The opposition has been campaigning to oust Mr. Ershad since he seized power eight years ago from the BNP government in a 1982 bloodless coup. It has called for free and fair elections under a neutral caretaker government and has rejected Mr. Ershad's calls for dialogue and elections organized under his government, saying they would be rigged.

Two Students Killed

BK1310112390 Hong Kong AFP in English 1054 GMT 13 Oct 90

[By Golam Tahaboor]

[Excerpt] Dhaka, Oct 13 (AFP)—Police shot dead two people, including a student leader in a university dormitory, in confrontations with rampaging Bangladeshi demonstrators Saturday, witnesses and hospital sources said. More than 100 people, including several policemen, were injured in the clashes, the hospital sources said.

Police entered a student dormitory at Dhaka University and opened fire, killing a student leader who had taken part in an anti-government procession, a local reporter said. The 20-year-old student was confirmed dead at Dhaka Medical College Hospital after being shot in the head, the hospital sources said.

The witnesses said police opened fire and hurled at least 100 rounds of tear gas to stop a four-hour pitched battle between security personnel and student activists in the Tejgaon industrial area close to Dhaka's diplomatic enclave. Sources from the opposition Awami League said an unidentified man injured in police gunfire at Tejgaon had also died.

The sources said the head of the Awami League, Sheikh Hasina Wajed, went to the university and conducted an oath swearing ceremony for the students pledging them to revenge the deaths. "We will continue our united campaign until the autocratic Ershad government is removed," she said standing next to the coffin of the dead student at the foot of a sculptor symbolising Bangladesh's 1971 war of independence against Pakistan.

She warned that no one would would be permitted to "sabotage" the on-going opposition campaign. Police entered the university as soon as Sheikh Hasina left and attacked the students with the coffin, the sources said, adding "we do not know what has happened to the body." The student was vice president of the opposition Awami League's student wing in the university's polytechnical institute, party sources said. [passage omitted]

Ershad Closes Dhaka Schools

BK1410052890 Hong Kong AFP in English 0513 GMT 14 Oct 90

[Text] Dhaka, Oct 14 (AFP)—Paramilitary troops and armed police moved into the Dhaka University campus early Sunday as students began to vacate their dormitories following the government's closure of all capital schools. The government order came after continuing anti-government violence Saturday left three more people killed and 22 vehicles burnt.

An official announcement, carried by Dhaka Radio on Sunday, said the authorities had asked all the capital's educational institutions to remain shut until further order. All resident students must vacate the dormitories attached to these schools by Sunday morning, the announcement said, adding the decision was taken to prevent further loss of life as well as to protect public and private property.

The government appealed to peace-loving citizens to extend their cooperation and assured them of its intention to maintain law and order under any circumstances. Four days of opposition-backed protests, the latest against the eight-year old regime of President Hussain Mohammad Ershad, began Wednesday with a violent sit-in demonstration in Dhaka that left up to 10 people dead, hundreds injured and some 100 vehicles burnt or damaged.

Police confirmed seven deaths, including a victim of Wednesday's violence who died of bullet wounds Saturday at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital. The crowded Dhaka University, a traditional base for anti-government movements, and some other schools had been scenes of fierce clashes between stone-throwing students and rifle-wielding police Friday and Saturday.

On Saturday two people died when student activists from Dhaka University stormed a nearby building belonging to the state-owned Atomic Energy Commission, burning 16 parked vehicles and destroying valuable documents and equipment, police sources said. The order to close schools came amid fresh plans for protest strikes and rallies announced by major opposition political groups and their student wings. The planned strikes were aimed at forcing President Ershad and his eight-year-old government to resign and hold free and fair national elections under an impartial caretaker government.

Students March in Protest

BK1410090790 Hong Kong AFP in English 0858 GMT 14 Oct 90

[Text] Dhaka, Oct 14 (AFP)—Some 400 Bangladeshi students Sunday held a silent protest march at downtown Dhaka University as security forces occupied the campus following governmment orders to close all schools, witnesses said. Witnesses said more than 50 policemen closely followed the students as they marched in silence through campus before heading to the nearby National Press Club to protest earlier police shootings that left up to 10 people dead, including three students.

Sporting black patches pinned to their shirts, the some 400 students returned to the deserted campus before dispersing peacefully. In sporadic violence elsewhere in Dhaka, student protestors set afire at least one vehicle as opposition-backed protests, though less intense, continued for the fifth straight day.

In the capital's Motijheel business district, the scene of violent protests Wednesday and Thursday, normal activities resumed, witnesses said. The silent protest was called by all opposition student groups at the university

as part of a campaign to oust the eight-year-old regime of President Hussain Mohammad Ershad.

The anti-government campaign was launched simultaneously by an eight-party alliance led by Sheikh Hasina's Awami League, a seven-party coalition headed by Begum Khaleda Zia of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and a left-wing five-party group led by Nirmal Sen. Paramilitary troops and police early in the day occupied the Dhaka University campus as students began to leave their dormitories following the government's order to shut all schools in the capital.

The government order came after continuing anti-government violence Saturday left three more people killed and 22 vehicles burnt. An official announcement, carried by Dhaka Radio, said authorities had ordered all the capital's educational institutions to remain shut until further notice.

All students boarding at the institutions were ordered to leave by Sunday morning, the announcement said, adding that the decision was taken to prevent further loss of life as well as to protect public and private property. The government urged the public to cooperate and promised to maintain law and order under any circumstances.

The latest round of opposition-led protests began Wednesday with a violent sit-in demonstration in Dhaka that opposition sources say left up to 10 people dead, hundreds injured and some 100 vehicles burnt or damaged. Police have confirmed seven deaths, including a victim of Wednesday's violence who died of bullet wounds Saturday at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

The crowded Dhaka University, a traditional base for anti-government movements, and several other schools were the scene of fierce clashes between stone-throwing students and armed police Friday and Saturday. Two people died Saturday when police fired on students who stormed a building belonging to the state-owned Atomic Energy Commission, burning 16 parked vehicles and destroying valuable documents and equiment, police sources said.

The order to close schools came amid fresh plans for protest strikes and rallies announced by major opposition political groups and their student wings. The planned strikes were aimed at forcing Mr. Ershad and his government to resign and hold free and fair national elections under an impartial caretaker government. The protest plans include calls for nationwide general strikes Monday and Tuesday.

India

South Africa's Nelson Mandela Arrives on Visit

Received by President

BK1510082190 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0435 GMT 15 Oct 90

[Text] Dr. Nelson Mandela, who symbolizes the hopes and aspirations of the people of South Africa, was given a warm reception on his arrival in New Delhi this morning on a five-day state visit. The president, Mr. Venkataraman; the prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh; and other dignitaries received him as he arrived at Rashtrapati Bhawan [President's House] where he was ceremonially received in the manner a head of state is welcomed. A guard of honor was presented to him by contingents of the three Armed Forces.

Talking to newsmen, Dr. Nelson Mandela described his visit to India as the fulfillment of his long-cherished ambition. He said the people of South Africa have special bonds of friendship with the people of India. He recalled that it was Mahatma Gandhi who launched the satyagraha first on the soil of South Africa.

Discusses De Klerk, Sanctions

BK1510112890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 15 Oct 90

[Excerpts] Dr. Nelson Mandela, the hero of anti-apartheid struggle in South Africa, was given a warm and affectionate welcome on his arrival in New Delhi today on a five-day visit to India. Dr. Mandela has described his visit as the fulfillment of his long-cherished ambition to the see the land where Mahatma Gandhi applied his ideas. Talking to newsmen, Dr. Mandela said that strong ties exist between the people of his country and India. [passage omitted]

Dr. Mandela called on the president, Mr. R. Venkataraman, at Rashtrapati Bahvan [President House] and apprised him about the latest situation in South Africa. He told the president that he is having very cordial relations with South African leaders and there is no bitterness among them. He expressed the hope that a negotiated settlement will soon be reached with the Pretoria regime on solving the long-standing South African problem. He said that Mr. de Klerk is having some political problems with some elements of his own party, but he is (?confident) of finding a solution. There is no reason to doubt it, Mr. Mandela added.

The president and Dr. Mandela agreed that sanctions against South Africa should be continued because it helps in strengthening the struggle and in bringing the desired results and reforms. The two leaders also discussed various international issues and matters of mutual interest.

Welcoming Dr. Mandela, the president spoke of the crusade against apartheid by the South African leader. Mr. Mandela thanked the people and the government of India for their consistent support to the South African cause. The vice president, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, also called on Dr. Mandela and was with him for about half an hour.

Views Job Reservation Policy

BK1510170690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 15 Oct 90

[Text] India today pledged its continuing support for the valiant struggle of the South African people. Resounding assurances were given to the African nationalist leader, Dr. Nelson Mandela, by the president, Mr. R. Venkataraman; the vice president, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma; and the prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, during their talks in New Delhi today with the legendary leader. Dr. Mandela, who arrived in the capital earlier in the morning on his first visit to India, was given an affectionate and warm welcome befitting a head of state. In the evening a rousing and tumultuous people's reception was given at the spacious Indira Gandhi indoor stadium. Nearly 50,000 people from all walks of life gave a standing ovation to the man who symbolizes the hopes and aspirations of millions of Africans and the oppressed people in the world. [passage omitted]

The prime minister handed over a check of $800,000 to Dr. Mandela in his capacity as chairman of the African Fund. He said a large aid package would be worked after technical discussions are held separately. Indian leaders also said that 2 crore rupees have been set aside for assistance to South Africa and Dr. Mandela and his movement can avail of goods and services out of this package.

The external affairs minister, Mr. I.K. Gujral, said New Delhi would be happy to extend training facilities to South African students and send Indian experts to that country. Dr. Mandela told the Indian leaders that the land of Mahatma Gandhi has been the single largest source of inspiration to the movement in South Africa.

An official spokesman said that Dr. Mandela, during his talks with the prime minister, appreciated the decision taken by the government regarding the implementation of the Mandal Commission recommendations [on job reservations]. Responding to the overwhelming empathy at the people's reception, Dr. Mandela described his visit as the fulfillment of his long-cherished desire to be present on the soil of the country which has been in the forefront in the fight against racism. Paying glowing tributes to the people of India for their sustained and steadfast support to the cause of South Africa, he recalled that India was the first country that came out in full support for their demand for diplomatic and economic sanctions against apartheid.

Welcoming Dr. Mandela, the vice president, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, said the people of India have profound satisfaction that the African leader's dream of creating a democratic, unitary, and nonracial South Africa is in sight. Earlier, on his arrival, Dr. Mandela was given a warm and ceremonial welcome. The external affairs minister, Mr. I.K. Gujral, received him at the airport. At Rashtrapati Bhavan [President House], Dr. Mandela was received by the president, the prime minister, and his senior Cabinet colleagues.

Congress Stages Sit-In Against President Rule

BK1510163890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 15 Oct 90

[Text] The center has received a report from the Karnataka governor, Mr. Bhanu Pratap Singh, on the current situation in the state. Briefing newsmen in New Delhi this evening, the official spokesman said the report is presently being examined and the Union Cabinet will discuss it tomorrow.

Several Congress-I members of parliament today went in a procession from Parliament House to the Rashtrapati Bhavan [President House], raising slogans against the imposition of president's rule in Karnataka. They later squatted at the gate of Rashtrapati Bhavan, demanding immediate revocation of president's rule in the state. The party general secretary, Mr. Bal Ram Jakhar, said that they later met the prime minister who assured them that the democratic government in Karnataka will soon be installed. In Bangalore also, the newly elected Congress-I legislature party leader, Mr. S. Bangarappa, and other state party leaders staged a dharna [sit-in] in support of their demand for immediate revocation of president's rule.

President Congratulates Gorbachev on Nobel Prize

BK1610102290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Excerpts] The UN secretary general, Mr. Perez de Cuellar, has congratulated the Soviet president, Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev, on being declared the winner of the Nobel Peace Prize for not only contributing to a global detente but also enhancing the role of the United Nations. [passage omitted]

The president, Mr. R. Venkataraman, has also congratulated President Gorbachev on the conferment. In a message to him, Mr. Venkataraman said: This very deserved honor has been bestowed on an outstanding statesman and world leader who is also a great friend of India.

Gujral Reiterates Call for Iraqi Pullout

BK1410102690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 14 Oct 90

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr. I.K. Gujral, has strongly reiterated India's view that Iraq should withdraw its forces from Kuwait. In a global syndicated interview to the International TV News Service, Mr. Gujral said Kuwait must be given back its freedom and status as an independent sovereign nation.

Spokesman Details Government Stand on Shrine

BK1510162290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 15 Oct 90

[Text] Government is in touch with various political and religious leaders to find an amicable solution to the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid [disputed shrine claimed by

both Hindus and Muslims] issue. Briefing newsmen, an official spokesman said in New Delhi all-out efforts are being made to arrive at some agreed solution to the vexed problem. The prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, is scheduled to have a meeting with leaders of various political parties on Wednesday and with sarvoday [social workers] leaders on Saturday. He will also meet representatives of voluntary organizations, cultural groups, and eminent citizens and intellectuals on the 22d of this month as part of government's sustained efforts to find an amicable solution to the issue.

All India Radio correspondent recalls that the government has already made its stand clear that it will abide by the verdict of the court in case no amicable solution is found out. It was however pointed out that the Vishwa Hindu Parishad [World Hindu Council] leaders had agreed at their meeting with the then chief minister of Uttar Pradesh on the 22d of September last year in Lucknow to abide by the directive of the Allahabad High Court to maintain status quo on the issue. The Lucknow bench of the Allahabad High Court had in its interim judgment on the 14th of August last year directed that the parties to the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid suit shall maintain the status quo and shall not change the nature of the property in question. The case is now listed before the full bench of the Allahabad High Court on the 29th of this month.

The Vishwa Hindu Parishad leaders today said that they are not rigid on the demolition of the mosque but are going ahead with their plan to reconstruct the Sri Ram Temple at Ayodhya. Addressing a news conference, they said that there is no proper atmosphere for talks on the issue with the government.

The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] president, Mr. L.K. Advani, has reiterated that one way of resolving the temple-mosque issue could be an amicable settlement between the parties involved in the controversy. He was addressing a largely attended public meeting on the second day of his Rath Yatra [chariot journey] in New Delhi today.

Afghan Envoy Warns of Offensive To Halt War

BK1610101090 Hong Kong AFP in English 0940 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Text] New Delhi, Oct 16 (AFP)—Afghanistan's ambassador to India, Ahmad Sarwar, warned Tuesday that Kabul will order a stern counter-offensive to repulse possible new resistance attacks. Mr. Sarwar said the Kabul government will not remain indifferent to "conspiracies" by the Pakistani military intelligence and will give a strong military reply.

The diplomat was speaking at his first news conference since the October 5 fall of the key Afghan city of Tarin Kowt to the mujahedeen and intensified fighting around the capital Kabul. His warning came after 30 guerrilla commanders fighting the Kabul regime resolved last week to launch coordinated attacks against the government to take more cities before the onset of winter.

"We will not only defend strongly, but when necessary, will resort to counter-offensive with power and decisiveness and will sharply respond to any assault or act of aggression and conspiracy," Mr. Sarwar said. "We will eliminate any scheme in its embryo which in that case the ensuing responsibilities will be borne by the perpetrators and initiators of aggression," he said.

He said without elaboration that guerrilla commanders had pledged not to attack Kabul to avoid civilian casualties in the city of 2.5 million people. The Afghan diplomat, a member of the country's ruling Watan or homeland party, criticised Pakistan, saying that Islamabad planned to step up the war in Afghanistan, which since 1979 has claimed more than one million lives.

"The Pakistani authorities are trying to perpetrate a new genocide in Afghanistan," he said, adding that Islamabad had supplied some 7,000 surface rockets to the rebels to pound Kabul and other cities. "Pakistan does not only intend to gain more profit and arms, but rather finds the peace process in Afghanistan controversial to its interests and by doing this, Pakistan wants to distract world opinion from its internal political problems," Mr. Sarwar said.

The Soviet-backed government of President Najibullah initiated a series of peace moves after the February 1989 Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan. But Pakistan-backed mujahedeen factions and Islamabad have rejected his calls for negotiations.

"There is no solution in war," the diplomat said, listing the number of rebel strongholds that had fallen to the government since the Soviet withdrawal. He said the "last two years have proven that." Mr. Najibullah's army rules most key provincial headquarters and highways. The majority of the countryside is controlled by mujahedeen field commanders, who owe allegiance to groups based either in Pakistan or Iran.

Major Parties Criticize Petroleum Price Hike

BK1510164290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 15 Oct 90

[Text] The Congress-I has criticized the government for the 25-percent increase in the prices of petroleum products. The spokesman of the party, Mr. V.N. Gadgil, said in New Delhi today that the decision is antipeople.

The CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] has said in a statement that it is the duty of the center to ensure that the increase in oil prices is managed in such a way that those who can afford are made to pay more. It upheld the seven-percent surcharge on corporate tax as being in the correct direction. The CPI [Communist Party of India], Bharatiya Janata Party, and the INTUC [Indian National Trade Union Congress] have called for the withdrawal of the hike in petroleum products prices.

Operation Evacuating Nationals From Gulf Ends

BK1210123090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 12 Oct 90

[Text] With the arrival of the Indian ship MV Akber at Dubayy yesterday, the major evacuation operation of stranded Indians who reached Amman and Dubayy from Iraq and Kuwait comes to an end. This is the last ship from the Iraqi port of Khor al-Zubayr. All the 1,860 passengers are being flown to Bombay by special Air India flights. As reported earlier, the last batch of about 4,800 evacuees was air lifted on Wednesday [10 October] from Amman. Air India has evacuated 127,000 Indians from Iraq and Kuwait.

Iran

Pro-Palestinian Rally Hears Rafsanjani Message

LD1510185890 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 15 Oct 90

[Text] On the seventh day after the martyrdom of Muslim and resistant Palestinian youth in the al-Aqsa mosque, and as an expression of support for the Palestine Islamic front, inhabitants of Tehran gathered today in Palestine Square following a march in which they were invited to participate by the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps. While expressing their abhorrence of the crime committed by the Zionist regime, they declared their sympathies to the families of the Palestinian martyrs. Various strata of the people, organizations, institutions, assemblies, and representatives of the armed forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran marched from Tehran University and the former U.S. den of spies [embassy] to Palestine Square prior to the ceremony. [video shows crowd chanting "There is no God but God," waving Iranian flag, and carrying placards with slogans such as "Israel must be destroyed" and "Death to Israel." A replica of the al-Aqsa Mosque is shown in the middle of the square. Clips of flag-burning and of a banner with the slogan in English "Down with Israel" are shown, followed by more clips of crowds, protest posters.]

The ceremony was attended by Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Mohammadi-Golpayegani, representing the eminent leader, and a number of state and military officials and personalities. A message from President Hashemi-Rafsanjani was read to the crowd. [photo-inset of Hashemi-Rafsanjani over video of square rally] the president urged armed resistance until Zionism is eliminated from the face of the earth. His message then stated: The weak response of international forums to the heart-rending episode, when hundreds of innocent Palestinians were massacred by Zionist executioners in the al-Aqsa Mosque, and the deadly silence of arrogant powers who claim to confront aggression and defend human rights, has exposed their disgrace to the whole world and has proved to Muslim nations that in order to liberate their first qiblah [Jerusalem] they should embark with unity and solidarity on a relentless struggle and compel governments ruling over Islamic countries to take serious and broad measures against the existence of the usurpers of noble Jerusalem.

The government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, continuing along the path laid down by its eminent and great leader, and following the respected leader of the revolution, his eminence, Ayatollah Khamene'i—may his shadow on earth extend—continues to place at the top of its agenda the holy aspiration of the liberation of noble Jerusalem from the claws of the Zionists. It will not refrain from any effort to see the materialization of this lofty goal.

Another part of the president's message stated: Your gathering today—you, the offspring of the revolution and genuine supporters of Islam—is a manifestation that Iran's Muslim and revolutionary nation seeks to fulfill its aspirations and demonstrates the decisive resolve of this nation to continue with its motto: Today Iran, tomorrow Palestine, which arose at the dawn of the victory of the Islamic revolution in Islamic Iran, and remains as one of the pivotal mottoes of this divine revolution.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani also emphasized in his message: The government of the Islamic Republic and the heroic people of Iran have always stood alongside the victimized people of Palestine, and they will remain faithful to this promise and commitment until the Zionist cancerous growth is uprooted from occupied Palestine, and Islam becomes sovereign in that holy territory. After the president's message, a six-point resolution of the marchers was read.

IRGC Commander Addresses Rally

LD1510191690 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 15 Oct 90

[Text] Mr. Reza'i, chief commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC], addressing a rally in Palestine square today, declared that the IRGC personnel are ready for a jihad against Zionism, along with their Palestinian brothers. He gave an outline of the history of the occupation of Palestine's territory, and described some of the Palestinians' acts of resistance and courage. He also noted how the United States and Zionism had pursued aggressive and hegemonistic policies in the region.

The ceremonies continued with Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Mohammadi-Golpayegani, the leader's representative, unveiling a memorial stone honoring the innocent martyrs of Black Monday.

At the same time these ceremonies were taking place, IRGC units fired shots in the air from five points in Tehran.

The resolution of the marchers emphasizes the remarks made by the imam—may his soul be sanctified—concerning the elimination of Israel from the face of the earth. While supporting and backing the just resistance of the Palestinians, and condemning the crimes of the Zionist regime, the resolution calls on the United

Nations to issue a resolution and, in addition, to take practical steps to prevent the Jerusalem-occupying regime's conspiracies and not to give any opportunities to this regime to continue its seditious deeds.

In another part of the resolution, the marchers declared their readiness to conduct a jihad against the Jerusalem-occupying regime alongside the resistant brother Palestinians, and strongly condemned the silence of reactionary governments in the region.

UN Human Rights Envoy Meets With Velayati

Praises Assistance

LD1510202890 Tehran IRNA in English 1618 GMT 15 Oct 90

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 15, IRNA—U.N. human rights envoy Reinaldo Galindo Pohl conferred with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati here today, and appreciated the assistance given him by the Iranian government for his human rights mission in the Islamic Republic.

The Iranian foreign minister welcomed the visit to Tehran by the U.N. human rights commission, expressing hope that such missions would be undertaken with a spirit of impartiality. The United Nations envoy is to depart from Tehran Tuesday at the end of his week-long visit and is expected to present a report of to the United Nations next month on his findings.

Confers With Mohammad Yazdi

LD1510204290 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 15 Oct 90

[Text] The United Nations special envoy, Mr. Galindo Pohl, met in Tehran today with the head of the Judicial Branch, Mr. Mohammad Yazdi, and presented a report on his visit to Evin Prison. He said: Talking to a number of the prisoners, I witnessed their confession to espionage acts against Iran.

Commenting on the fact that, in accordance with the existing regulations in Iran, the State Supreme Court is quashing the sentences issued against those who did not have lawyers, he added: In my opinion this is a very good, appropriate, and fair measure.

Afterwards, the head of the Judicial Branch, referring to the fact that the biggest legal authority exists in the Islamic system, particularly in the noble Koran, pointed out that the laws of the Islamic Republic stress the need for making the accused understand the charges against himself, allow appointment of lawyers for the accused, and also that all the courts, including the civil courts, revolution courts, and military tribunals, have the appeal procedure in their regulations. He added: Our legal system, while respecting the rights of individuals and society, gives priority to the rights of society; and unfortunately, sometimes it is observed that some international organizations, which claim to be supporters of human rights, are perhaps influenced by the policy of major or minor powers and allow political matters to interfere with their judgement. In my opinion, such a style poses the biggest threat to safeguarding rights.

The head of the Judicial Branch, referring to violation of human rights in various regions of the world, particularly in Kashmir and Afghanistan, said: No legal system but Islam has supported human rights. The best proof of this claim is the freedom enjoyed by minorities, and even those who are the opponents of the revolution, side by side, with the other people of our country. there are some groups in the country whose statements, writings, and meetings are against the Islamic government, but as long as they do not go beyond the regulations and do not engage in practical acts, we shall leave them alone.

On the basis of this report, Mr. Galindo Pohl and his entourage, at a meeting with the deputy head of the Judicial Branch, had a lengthy discussion on the judicial system of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the penal code.

French Industry Minister Arrives 10 Oct

Heads Economic Delegation

NC1010082990 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 10 Oct 90

[Text] Mr. Roger Fauroux, France's minister of industry and land management, arrived in Tehran this morning at the head of an economic delegation for talks on economic and industrial cooperation as well as to visit the 16th Tehran International Trade Fair.

The French minister of industry and land management said that the objective behind this visit is to expand relations between the two countries and said: The resumption of normal diplomatic relations between the two countries should be coupled with a higher volume of exchanges in all fields.

Discusses 'Financial Disagreements'

LD1310190290 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 13 Oct 90

[Text] French Industry Minister Roger Fauroux met Mr Velayati, our country's foreign minister, today. In that meeting, Mr Velayati remarked on the existing financial disagreements between Iran and France and expressed the hope that through their resolution the road will be paved for the expansion and deepening of relations between the two countries. He also said that the establishment of stability in the Persian Gulf region necessitates the existence of security in the region, and the region's security can only be established by the countries of the region.

Joint Communique Signed

LD1410025990 Tehran IRNA in English 2030 GMT 13 Oct 90

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 13, IRNA—France's minister of industry and territorial development and Iran's heavy industries minister issued a joint communique on Saturday containing agreements reached between the two sides for cooperation in various fields.

The communique, signed by Roger Fauroux and Mohammad Nezhad-Hoseynian, underlined the importance of promoting Tehran-Paris ties in political, economic, industrial, commercial and financial fields as well as cultural, educational and technical cooperation. It also pointed to the willingness of both sides to remove financial disputes existing between the two countries in the shortest possible time as a prelude to holding Iran-France joint economic commission.

Among other ponts envisaged in the joint communique was diversification of exports between the two countries with the French side promising to help Iran diversify and increase its exports of industrial commodities. The two sides have also agreed to expand their cooperation in oil, petrochemical, transportation and communication fields, and in transfer of technological know-how for manufacture of industrial machines in Iran. According to the communique, French experts are to be despatched to Iran to study ways of utilizing the vacant capacities of Iranian heavy industries plants.

After signing the communique, Fauroux told reporters that the two sides had got acquainted with each other's stance and demands during his Tehran visit. The French minister said "fruitful" talks were held on the contribution of France's Peugoet and Renault auto companies to Iran's auto manufacturing industry. "Iran and France have decided to settle their financial differences as soon as possible," Fauroux said and made it clear that despite such disputes the two countries would take steps towards expanding cooperation. The French official also noted to both countries, there were no restrictions on Iran's oil exports to France.

During its nearly one week stay here, Fauroux and his entourage held two rounds of talks with Nezhad-Hoseynian and also conferred with First Vice President Hasan Habibi and the ministers of foreign affairs, economy and finance, oil, energy, mines and metals and housing and urban development.

Views Improving Economic Ties

LD1410104690 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 13 Oct 90

[Excerpt] Mr. Roger Fauroux, the French minister of industry and energy, [title as heard] who has come to Tehran at the invitation of Mr. Nezhad-Hoseynian, the minister of heavy industries, in a press conference on Saturday evening expounded the French Government's program aimed at improving economic relations between Iran and France. According to our correspondent's report, the French minister of industry and energy said: Iran has been one of France's significant commercial partners, from a long way back in the past, and we are trying to remove any political obstacles, to raise the level of economic ties to an optimal level.

Expressing his joy at France's participation in the production of a variety of passenger cars in Iran, he commented on his visit to the 16th Tehran International Trade Fair, saying: I witnessed Iran's industrial progress during my visit to the Tehran exhibition and I believe that Iran's industrial products will enjoy a good reception in French and the European markets.

Declaring France's preparedness to assist in the reconstruction and the construction of Iran's oil installations which sustained damage in the course of the war, he said: In my meeting with Mr. Aqazadeh, we exchanged views on France's cooperation with Iran in terms of the expansion and the modernization of the oil and petrochemical installations.

On the price of oil, Mr. Roger Fauroux said: We believe that a just price should be set for oil; one which satisfies both the producer and the consumer. [passage omitted]

Commentary Welcomes Cooperation

LD1410150190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1054 GMT 14 Oct 90

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Mr. Roger de Faroux, the French minister of industry and regional development who was on a four day visit to our country, left Tehran last night following the signing of a joint statement with the [Iranian] minister of industries. During his stay, the French minister of industries, apart from visiting the Tehran International Trade Fair, also held discussions with the first vice-president and ministers of heavy industries, oil, energy, metals, and housing and urban development.

He expressed satisfaction about his discussions on oil with Mr. Aqazadeh and added that there are many grounds for cooperation in the field of oil. In his meeting with Mr. Nezhad-Hoseynian, minister of heavy industries, expansion of industrial exchanges, efforts to expand and make export of industrial goods more attractive, and also cooperation in oil land petrochemical fields, transportation, car-manufacturing, and transfer of technology were stressed.

Iran-France ties have been quite cloudy since the victory of the Islamic revolution. Of course the main reason for the instability [in relations] should be seen in France's all-out support for Iraq. Despite the existence of such a background, France has tried to create appropriate grounds for better relations between the two countries since the establishment of the cease-fire [between Iran and Iraq] and Iran has also welcomed the move.

The participation of the French companies in the completion and commissioning of the petrochemical plant in the Imam Khomeyni port after the Japanese pulled out, reconstruction of the damaged Iranian [oil] platforms in the Persian Gulf as well as the signing of agreements on car manufacturing and metro [system] are among the most important French activities [in Iran]. But as both countries' officials have expounded still there are vast grounds for cooperation between Iran and France. The visits by French and Iranian delegations to each others' countries are among the efforts made in that regard.

At any rate what should be emphasized is that since the establishment of the cease-fire in the Iran-Iraq war, the two countries have signaled that reciprocal political will for expansion of relations exists beyond the trade exchanges, and that is the issue which will pave the way for reaching new agreements. The emphasis placed by the two countries' officials on the speedy solution of the remaining bilateral financial disputes is also another indication of the same point.

Here it is worth mentioning that as the Persian Gulf crisis evolved, the world realized once more the key role played by Iran in the establishment of security in the Middle East region, and that factor has not been ineffective toward encouraging those countries to deepen their relations with Iran. With regard to the fact that Iran faces a construction decade, it will welcome mutual cooperation combined with reciprocal good will with all countries, including France.

Mohtashemi Heads Delegation at IPU Meet

LD1610083890 Tehran IRNA in English 0729 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Text] Punta Del Este, Uruguay, Oct. 16, IRNA—The Interparliamentary Union (IPU) in its first session here Monday condemned Iraq's annexation of Kuwait. The move came after proposals by French and British delegations condemning Baghdad for its August 2 invasion of Kuwait and voicing support for the U.N. Security Council resolutions sanctioning Iraq. The proposals were approved by 903 votes for, 103 against and 54 abstentions.

The Iranian delegation in a statement condemned Iraq's occupation of Kuwait and called for unconditional withdrawal of all foreign forces especially American troops from the Persian Gulf and Zionist forces from Palestine. Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, Majles deputy from Tehran, is heading the Iranian delegation to the 84th IPU meet which is to end on October 20.

Khamene'i Signs Edict on Educational Expenditure

LD0910200990 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 9 Oct 90

[Text] His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the great leader of the Islamic revolution, has granted permission for one-third of the blessed share of the imam [sahm-e mobarak-e emam—compulsory religious due according to Shiite sect by which one-fifth of one's income must be handed over to the immaculate imams and, in their absence, to one's own chosen cleric—to be spent on specified expenses], peace be on him, be allocated to the establishement, for the expansion and improvement of the country's educational system.

In reply to a question by the minister of education on whether or not it is possible to spend part of the imam's blessed share on the establishment of educational centers, the exalted leader issued a lisence [mojavvez] as follows:

In the name of God. In view of the importance of promoting the development of this important field and for the purpose of helping to set up educational centers, the honorable faithful are allowed to spend sums from the permissible one-third of the blessed share of the imam, peace be upon him, on the above-mentioned item. May god render you successful.

[Signed] 'Ali ibn-e al-Javad al-Hoseyni [name as heard]

Soviet Energy Delegation Concludes Visit

LD1210164590 Tehran IRNA in English 1227 GMT 12 Oct 90

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 12, IRNA—Soviet Deputy Energy Minister Simonov Departed here for Moscow Friday, winding up a week-long official visit to Tehran and talks with Iranian officials on projects being implemented by the two countries. While in Tehran, Simonov and his entourage toured East Azerbaijan Province where they inspected a huge project for construction of two dams over the border river of Aras.

The Islamic Republic and the Soviet Union are to jointly construct 'Khoda-Afarin and Qizqal' Ehsi Dams under a contract they signed last year. The Soviet delegation also visited Ramin power plant in Ahvaz that is to be extended with the help of the Soviet Union.

Authorities To Establish Tehran-Moscow Rail Link

LD1410035390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persia n 2030 GMT 13 Oct 90

[Text] With the signing of a protocol in Moscow for cooperation between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the USSR on railways and transportation by the two countries' transportation ministers, Iran and the USSR agreed to establish a railway passenger line between Tehran and Moscow and to increase the number of Aeroflot flights to Tehran to two flights per week.

IRNA reports Transportation minister Mohammad Sayyed-Kia, elaborating on the clauses of this protocol, said: On the basis of the agreements reached, the Tehran-Moscow railway passenger line, will become operational in the early part of the next Christian calender. He added: To that end, the Iranian side is to lease passenger cars for the period of ten years, on the condition that Iran will obtain ownership rights at the end of the 10-year lease.

Remarking on the cooperations between Iranian and Soviet companies constructing the Mashhad-Sarakhs railway, he said: The preliminary studies of this project will be carried out in the next 15 months, but these studies do not include the Mashhad-Bafq railway project.

On Iran-Soviet cooperation on railway transportation, our country's transportation minister said: An agreement in principle based on the purchase of 200 railway cars by Iran was signed by the two sides, as well.

Remarking on the increase in the number of Aeroflot flights to Tehran, the transportation minister said: In case of the establishment of Iranian Airways flights between Tehran and Moscow, the number of Aeroflot flights covering the same route will be reduced to one flight per week. He added: Iran has voiced her interest in leasing Soviet YAK-42 passenger aircrafts, which can carry 100 passengers. He said: On the basis of the agreements, initially, one of these aircrafts will be placed at the disposal of the Iranian airlines, so that more of these aircrafts may be leased or purchased, once the quality of it has proved to be satisfactory.

New Lebanese Ambassador Meets Vice President

LD1010091790 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 9 Oct 90

[Text] Nur al-Din, the new ambassador of Lebanon to the Islamic Republic of Iran, met today with Mr. Habibi, first deputy president, expressed the appreciation of the Lebanese nation and government for all the help given by the Islamic Republic of Iran. He expressed the hope that Muslim countries, particularly Arab countries, will unite against their common enemy, Israel, and cleanse southern Lebanon from the filthy existence of usurping Israel.

Referring to the ancient bilateral relations between the two countries, Mr. Habibi expressed the hope that Lebanon will solve its existing problems in such a way that the rights of the people of that country are safeguarded and that peace and security are returned.

Lebanese Situation After 'Awn Downfall Viewed

LD1510191390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1106 GMT 15 Oct 90

[Text] The conclusion of the two years of turmoil caused by Michel 'Awn, the former commander of the Lebanese Army, has placed this country on the threshold of new developments and opened up new horizons. However, the dust that this issue has raised has not yet settled, and notwithstanding the political calm that prevails in Lebanon, the Christian residential quarter is still sunk in chaos as the pillage and plunder of public and private property spreads ever more widely.

In a brief examination of this event and its ensuing impact in terms and changes to the existing political formulas in the country, one can comment on a few issues. With the collapse of 'Awn, the customary influences of France and the Vatican have been to some extent diminished, specifically since Paris has tried in the past few months to give a share of the prevailing political clout to 'Awn, through a process of mediation and the promotion of various plans, and to endow him with a degree of legitimacy.

With the redeployment of the Syrian forces in the eastern sector of Beirut, from where they were ousted 12 years ago by the Phalangist forces, supported by the Zionist regime, Israel's position in Lebanon has been relatively weakened, even though the Zionist regime still controls the two levers of the Lebanese Phalangist forces based in the heart of Lebanon, and the forces of Antoine Lahd based in the southern border area of that country. Regarding Syria, 'Awn's collapse has certainly strengthened that country's influence in Lebanon. Political circles consider that Syria has emerged as the main victor in the recent development. By taking advantage of the Persian Gulf crisis, Syria has removed from the path one of its opponents in Lebanon—who has spread the slogan of "war of liberation against Syria"—and in effect obtained for itself a presence throghout the land of Lebanon, with the exception of the two areas which are under the direct or indirect influence of Israel.

The present Lebanese Government, headed by Ilyas al-Hirawi, has not gone unrewarded by 'Awn's collapse. The central government, which was established on the basis of the al-Ta'if agreement, has toppled one of the tough opponents of that pact, and it has now found the opportunity to implement the remaining clauses of that pact. In this connection, Salim al-Huss, the prime minister of Lebanon, declared yesterday that he is to expand his cabinet, and will give a share of the power to all the forces present on the Lebanese scene, so that, through their cooperation, it can dissolve the existing paramilitary organizations in Lebanon.

In the opinion of some Western circles, the implementation of the remaining clauses of the al-Ta'if pact is a very arduous task, since the dissolution of the paramilitary organizations necessitates the cooperation and consent of the Zionist regime. The forces of the South Lebanese Army, led by Antoine Lahd, are not under the control of the Syrian forces and the Army of the Lebanese Government, hence the dissolution of the lebanese Phalangist forces necessitates the approval of that regime and the Western countries. Moreover, Syria will not agree to the dissolution of the pro-Syrian paramilitary organizations, while similar pro-Zionist organizations continue to exist. The point which raises doubts in the minds of these circles as to the degree of seriousness with regard to the implementation of the al-Ta'if agreement is the clause on the withdrawal of the Syrian forces from Lebanon after the dissolution of the paramilitary organizations. In their view this remains impossible until the Middle East crisis has been fully resolved. In addition, the deployment of the splinter groups of the Phalangist paramilitary forces alongside the Syrian Army, in the eastern sector of Beirut, could herald a series of new crises in the wake of one crisis. The presence of the splinter groups of the Phalangist forces and the other

pro-Syrian Christian factions in eastern Beirut will place this region on the threshold of new rivalries and clashes over its control. In addition, the presence of the two rival factions of the Lebanese Phalangist forces in the two eastern sectors of Beirut, which have been engaged in bloody clashes in the past, is indicative of the unending nature of the Lebanese crisis and the fact that some remaining embers of the Lebanese fire are still to surface from beneath the ashes.

Commentary Views Resumption of Ties With Iraq

LD1510172590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1056 GMT 15 Oct 90

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Greetings, dear listeners. At the end of the Iraqi deputy foreign minister's trip to Iran, the resumption of diplomatic ties between the two countries was announced. The Iraqi Foreign Ministry official's trip to Tehran was in response to the recent visit by the Iranian deputy foreign minister to Baghdad. In the Tehran-Baghdad talks, the resumption of diplomatic and consular ties between the two countries and the release of the remaining POW's were discussed.

According to the agreements reached, a combined commission of Iran, Iraq, and the International Red Cross will resume the exchange of the two countries' POW's. With regard to the normalization of relations between the two countries, there was also agreement on the reopening of embassies and on the presence of diplomatic delegations in Tehran and Baghdad. On that basis, an Iraqi charge d'affaires and embassy staff arrived in Tehran yesterday and Iran's charge d'affaires will soon leave for Baghdad.

Among Iran's neighbors, Iraq is the only Arab country which shares land and water borders with the Islamic Republic of Iran and it is the only country which, during the years of the victory of the Islamic Revolution, has not had good-neighborly relations with Iran. Although there are a large number of issues of mutual interest to the two countries in the cultural, political, economic, and security fields, nevertheless, none of these has so far been a basis for all- round ties between the two countries. The Iranian and Iraqi nations share a common feature in Islam, are very similar economically, are founding members of OPEC, and, in view of the fact that they jointly control all the northern coast of the Persian Gulf, are the most sensitive countries to security, political, and economic issues relating to that international waterway.

Whilst Iran's sea borders in the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman begin from the easternmost point of Iran's border with Pakistan and extend to Iran's border with Iraq in Arvand Rud [Shatt al-'Arab], Iraq, with only a few hundred kilometers of sea border in the Persian Gulf, is considered to be a landlocked country. Furthermore, this is under circumstances in which Basra, Iraq's only important and significant port, is only exploitable with Iranian cooperation in Arvand Rud.

At the same time, in view of the two countries' need for the establishment of stability in oil markets, cooperation between them in OPEC is also important. The establishment of diplomatic ties will allow an understanding, without mediation, of the two countries' policies and will lay the groundwork for the resolution of bilateral differences. The protection of the general rights and national interests of the Islamic Republic of Iran and of individuals, as well as the implementation of the articles of the 1975 [Algiers] accord on the affirmation of borders makes increased contacts necessary; and it is expected that that process will contribute to closeness between the two Muslim nations of Iran and Iraq.

Of course, alongside the resumption of diplomatic ties between Tehran and Baghdad, Iran's concerns will still remain. The Islamic Republic of Iran condemns Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and Iran has officially declared its adhehrence to UN resolutions. Iran considers the immutability of borders to be a matter of principle and will not tolerate efforts to change the political geography of the region. In any case, the resumption of diplomatic ties between Iran and Iraq strengthens the hope for the endurance of peace in bilateral relations and for the establishment of stability and security in the region.

Paper Discusses Relations With Saudi Arabia

NC1510162190 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 2 Oct 90 p 8

[Valizadeh commentary: "Arabia: Increased Efforts"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Now, after the arrival of American forces in the region, we are witnessing a change in Saudi Arabia's regional policy.

In the past, the Al Sa'ud family aimed its foreign policy primarily at supporting the growth of Wahhabism and spreading discord among Muslim forces. With the occupation of Kuwait and the realization of its allies' incapability, it has begun efforts to create a new alliance. An ally like the Soviet Union will never agree without gaining concessions. At any rate, the Saudi Government's formation of a new regional alliance faces many problems.

The Islamic Republic, as the region's superior and undisputed power, has gained some of its objectives, too; this is a fact to which the countries that were Baghdad's brothers until yesterday have confessed as well. But today, in addition to its indisputable strategic role, Iran can also play a moral role because of its special position among the world's Muslims.

What others were unable to gain after spending years of effort and millions of dollars, the Islamic Republic of Iran was able to gain with the strength of a freedom-loving people's faith. It seems impossible for Iran to let others who have a political record of negative acts share the special position that it has gained in the world.

The Islamic Republic's participation in the worldwide condemnation of the Iraqi regime cannot be linked with the problems between the two countries in the past. Iran took the initiative of condemning and reproaching the aggressor on the basis of its belief in a logical and divine principle. But this should not be taken to mean that Iran has forgotten the bloody incident during the hajj pilgrimage.

Just a brief glance at the political record of relations between the regional countries and the Islamic Republic of Iran can clarify many of the dark points concerning future relations. The Muslims' participation in the divine ceremony of the hajj pilgrimage is something that should be placed within the context of relations between the regional countries and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

If the regional countries' efforts to repair relations are set within a logical context and nothing else, it will undoubtedly be welcomed by the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Editorial Views Role in Post-Cold War Era

NC1210163390 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 4 Oct 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Post Cold War Era and Iran"]

[Text] It took more than 70 years for the Soviet Communist Party leaders to realize the truth that the Marxist ideology followed in their country not only didn't bring bliss for the people but devastated their economy. Consequently, a superpower was turned into an ordinary power. Thus the cold war—state of tension between East and West—was ended.

Changes that took place in Eastern Europe which remained under Soviet hegemony after the second world war were also the natural consequences of the post-cold war era.

And the merger of two German states on Wednesday was a curtain drop on the past era of the cold war. There is no need to elaborate on the subject of the role played by Chancellor Helmut Kohl in realizing the dreams of millions of Germans in both parts of their bisected homeland.

The feelings of the opponents of German unification were summarized by a Zionist, Dov Shilansky, the speaker of Israel's parliament when he said: "On the day of the unification of Germany the people of Israel should put on sackcloth and put ashes on their heads...."

Another post cold war episode that preceded German unification by only two months was the Persian Gulf crisis. Though the United States, the main factor in making the crisis more formidable, has almost succeeded in making the world believe that Iraq is the culprit who brought about the crisis, keen political observers are aware of the identity of the real perpetrator. It is none other than Washington.

It would be sheer simple-mindedness to think that the Persian Gulf crisis has nothing to do with the changes in the political map of Europe. It is foolish to believe that Saddam Husayn's next target after Kuwait was Saudi Arabia. Similarly, the claim made by Washington that it was not aware of Iraq's intentions about Kuwait, is a plain lie. The Bush administration, even the Israeli government, knew before hand about Iraq's plans. Washington did nothing to stop it. The invasion of Kuwait was considered by the U.S. as an appropriate and God-sent opportunity to enact the scenario it had prepared a long time back to counterbalance the power a German dominated Europe will have on the world economy.

The U.S. wanted its armed forces to be in full control of the richest oil fields of the world. And so they are in tens of thousands with huge amounts of military hardware in the oil fields of Arabia. If the U.S. had not taken this action, it would not be in a position to safeguard NATO and its dominance of Europe.

The only country in the Middle East, rather in the world, that can confront the U.S. and see to it that its evil plots are duly nullified is the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Thank God, the leadership of the country as well as its statesmen are acting well in that direction. No one in Iran will be fooled by the tactics of the Great Satan. Unfreezing Iran's assets in the U.S. and the releasing of 40 Shi'a prisoners in South Lebanon and similar acts will be of no help to Washington.

Iran in the post cold war era has to play a bigger role.

Commentator Views Government Stance on Crisis

LD1610113390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0740 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Commentary from the 'Holy Defense' Program]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] The crisis arising from the occupation of Kuwait is still continuing, and this is at a time when with the carrying out of various actions and counteractions, this crisis is gathering more complex dimensions by the minute. A point worth mentioning is that in the wake of the coordination based on mutual understanding between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Iraq toward the resolution of their bilateral differences, a clear picture depicting a future of peaceful relations in the region was seen on the horizon. But unfortunately, the occupation of Kuwait by Iraq marred that picture, giving the Western government the opportunity to gain an active foothold in the region, through the massive deployment of their troops.

We should be aware that such an opportunity is seen by the Westerners as extremely valuable, to such an extent that they have recently began to consider the creation of a new security plan for the region, hence interfering in an issue which is of no concern to them whatsoever. This is at a time when the Iraqi regime, by persistently pursuing its occupation of Kuwait, is in effect paving the way for

the Western maneuvers. In this very connection, the international community—who had in total solidarity embarked on a series of extensive moves through the channel of the United Nations to end the Persian Gulf crisis—taking heed of the sensitive and crucial role of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in terms of the regional issues, seeks to ascertain the stances adopted by the Islamic Republic. In this regard, and as you dear listeners are aware, the Iranian government, has, ever since the onset of the crisis, promulgated its decisive and principle stances. On the one hand, the Islamic Republic of Iran calls for the total and unconditional withdrawal of the Iraqi forces from Kuwait, and the restoration of the legal and legitimate authority of that country, reiterating that the sole solution to: [the settlement of] the differences between Kuwait and Iraq is found in [conducting] negotiations based on mutual understanding between the two countries, under the auspices of the countries of the region. While on the other the Islamic Republic of Iran regards the massive presence of the U.S. forces in the region as detrimental to general security, pointing out to the world that the presence of the U.S. forces is not only of no help in alleviating the crisis, but it serves to give new dimensions to the crisis, since in principle the Americans' military expedition was not aimed at the elimination of the crisis, but to serve their own interests.

Thus, the Islamic Republic of Iran calls for the withdrawal of the U.S. forces from the region, and the Iraqi forces from Kuwait, so that with that and the removal of any factors that may give rise to a crisis, the countries of the region may employ their initiatives in a suitable climate, toward the establishment of security and stability in the region. [passage omitted]

Paper Views Need To Safeguard National Interests

NC1510205890 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 3 Oct 90 p 12

[Ahmad Nasiri commentary from the "Political Viewpoint" column: "National Interests"]

[Text] Where does the eagerness to improve relations with Tehran stem from?

There is no doubt that the Islamic Republic of Iran enjoys a special place in the Persian Gulf and that, because of its military strength and capability, it can assume an effective role in establishing the region's peace and stability.

But it seems that this reality is not the only objective behind the West and the Persian Gulf countries' improving relations with Iran. It seems that it is the critical situation in the Persian Gulf and Iraq's aggression against Kuwait that has led to their wish for improved relations.

If we take the current crisis as a factor, it is clear that the West, aware of the need to establish relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran, has always tried to create friction and to make up and break up with Iran so that it could deprive us of our revolutionary victory and direct us toward a policy which is slanted in its favor.

Needless to say, the Islamic Republic of Iran's strength and stability in the face of difficulties and enemies and the West's awareness that the Islamic system is steadfast in the region have all resulted in the West accepting certain realities.

It seems that as long as the imam's spirit is among us in the Islamic Republic of Iran and the arrogant continue to believe what they believe, friendships will inevitably be unstable. Therefore the wall of friendship between us will always be built on sand and it will be necessary for us to be as alert as possible in order not to lean on it.

Definitely, the policy that the Westerners are pursuing in improving relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran is aimed primarily at turning Iran into a regional pole opposite Iraq. The Westerners are terrified that Tehran will not join the chain of sanctions against Iraq.

The Persian Gulf countries as well as America's regional friends are pursuing the same objectives in their efforts to improve relations with Iran.

At any rate, since our policy on friendship with regional countries and the establishment of relations with the West has always been based on mutual respect, naturally we will consider these countries' wish to establish relations with us, bearing in mind the revolution's criteria and values and existing realities.

It will not be unexpected if, once the regional crisis is solved, we once again witness things such as the Salman Rushdie affair in the West or the Saudis' hypocritical approach during the hajj pilgrimage in the future. The moral here is that we should not keep all our eggs in one basket and sit in anticipation of an enticing outlook.

A point that we should not neglect is that neither of the two sides in the Persian Gulf conflict—Iraq which has committed aggression against Kuwait, and its supporters, or those who have deployed their troops in the region with arrogant intentions, and their supporters—is one for whose sake we should negate our just principles and endanger our "national interests."

In the current crisis, our enemies are pursuing their own interests, not the interests of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The policy that we should pursue is to make those who have frozen our assets for the past nine years and placed their petrodollars at Baghdad's disposal during the imposed war understand this point.

Nepal & Bhutan

Government Increases Oil Prices Due to Crisis

BK1410031390 Hong Kong AFP in English 1845 GMT 13 Oct 90

[Text] Kathmandu, Oct 13 (AFP)—The Nepalese Government said Saturday it was increasing the prices of

petroleum oil products between 5.3 and 41.7 per cent because of the Gulf crisis, state radio reported. The Nepalese Ministry of Supply said the cost of petroleum was increased by 5.3 per cent, diesel by 11.11 per cent, kerosene by 41.66 per cent and airplane fuel by more than 11 per cent.

"The cost of the aviation fuel for the domestic flights, however, has not been hiked so that it may not affect the economic mobilisation in the remote areas where surface roads are virtually non-existent," the official announcement over state radio said.

King's Proposed Changes Delay Constitution

BK1510151890 Hong Kong AFP in English 1511 GMT 15 Oct 90

[Text] Kathmandu, Oct 15 (AFP)—Last-minute changes proposed by King Birendra have delayed the promulgation of Nepal's new constitution, which was expected later in the week, palace sources said Monday. The king has proposed an amendment to "share sovereignty" with the people, the sources said.

The king also wanted to delete a reference in the constitution's preamble to the popular movement that triggered the downfall of Nepal's former partyless system in April, the sources said. The monarch believed a reference to the nationwide movement that left hundreds dead would lead to further unrest in the future, they added.

Political analysts said the proposed amendments were fundamental in nature. They blamed "reactionary" elements and alleged court conspirators for advising the king to press for changes in the draft constitution. The interim government led by Prime Minister Krishna Pratao Bhattarai late last month reached a consensus on limiting the king's power under the draft constitution, which the government has already formally approved.

It agreed to transfer the king's sovereignty to the people, set up a two-chamber parliament, and place the royal army under the control of a civilian body headed by an elected prime minister. King Birendra said earlier this month that the new constitution would be promulgated by Wednesday and the nation expected the formal announcement Monday on the eve of a national festival of lights.

The sources indicated that the constitution would now be ready next week. The delay has already undermined much of the people's trust in the monarch, the analysts said.

German MP Assures Continued Aid to Third World

BK1510004690 Hong Kong AFP in English 1706 GMT 14 Oct 90

[Text] Kathmnadu, Oct 14 (AFP)—Reunified Germany will continue to aid the developing world, German MP Hans Gottfried Bernarth said Sunday at the end of a five-day visit to Nepal. Mr. Bernarth, heading a six-member parliamentary delegation, also welcomed the process of democratization under way in Nepal since April, when popular protests forced an end to the single-party system.

"We are returning home with a good impression and we had a very useful talks with the Nepalese Government leaders," including Prime Minister Krishna Prasad Bhattarai, said Mr. Bernarth. During their stay, the MPs flew to western Nepal to observe projects aimed at protecting forests and stemming soil erosion, officials said.

"The unification of Germany will not affect the FRG (West German) commitment to Third World, particularly the least developing countries like Nepal," said Mr. Bernarth, chairman of the Bundestag's Home Affairs Committee. West Germany was a major donor to economic development projects in Nepal, and Mr. Bernarth said his visit would help strengthen the existing German-Nepalese relationship.

Pakistan

Islami Jamhoori Ittehad Issues Election Manifesto

BK1310164290 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 13 Oct 90

[Text] The IJI [Islamic Jamhoori Ittehad] election manifesto enunciates as its cardinal principles supremacy of the Holy Koran and sunnah [teachings of the prophet], establishment of true democracy, equal rights and protection to every citizen, cultural, social, political and economic rights of women, promotion of national unity, provision of inexpensive justice and equitable economic opportunities for all.

Explaining the main features of the manifesto at a news conference in Islamabad today, the prime minister's special assistant, Mr. Kamal Asghar, said it envisages the effective implementation of political, administrative and financial autonomy to provinces, guarantees food, clothing, shelter, education, health and employment, eradication of exploitation and guarantee that persons holding responsible positions will be honest. It provides for creation of 1 million jobs over the next five years.

In the administrative field, the manifesto envisages supremacy of elected representatives at all levels of administration, establishment of village development councils and multipurpose cooperative societies. It promises fundamental changes in present system of police and appointment of an ombudsman in every province.

The manifesto provides for all constitutional and legal rights to the minorities. It envisages conversion of radio and television into autonomous bodies and freeing NPT and APP [National Press Trust and ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN] from government control.

In the field of defense, the IJI manifesto envisages developing effective capability to deter any aggression by equipping the armed forces with most modern defense

systems. Military training will be made compulsory for all able-bodied males between 18 and 45 years.

It promises a nonaligned foreign policy with support for the Palestinian struggle for independence, for the self-determination of the people of Kashmir, and development of a representative and sovereign Islamic government in Afghanistan.

PDA Platform Vows Repeal of Presidential Powers

BK1510143690 Hong Kong AFP in English 1413 GMT 15 Oct 90

[By Sami Zubeiri]

[Excerpts] Islamabad, Oct 15 (AFP)—Ousted Premier Benazir Bhutto's People's Democratic Alliance (PDA), in its election platform released Monday, vowed that if elected it would repeal the president's power to dissolve Pakistan's parliament. The four-party PDA dominated by Ms. Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party (PPP) came out strongly against the discretionary powers granted to the president in an amendment to the constitution introduced by the late President Mohammad Ziaul Haq.

Presenting the coalition's platform for the October 24 elections, former Education Minister Shahnaz Wazir Ali said the PDA wanted to "restore the country's 1973 constitution in its original form." The PDA's rival, the Islamic Democratic Alliance (IJI), also released its platform for the elections. But it was silent on the presidential prerogative to dissolve parliament, a power last invoked on August 6 when Ms. Bhutto was sacked and parliament was dissolved. [passage omitted]

Ms. Ali announced that if voted into power, the PDA would allow challenges in superior courts to the imposition of the state of emergency. The PDA also pledged to check the "cancerous growth of corruption" by creating a special bench on the higher courts to examine complaints by citizens against the president, high officials, mps and senators or political organisations. Ms. Bhutto has accused President Ishaq Khan of favouritism.

The PDA said it would broaden investigations into government corruption and trials launched against the Bhutto government to include officials who served in the previous 1985-1989 government. Pledging strict implementation of a 1973 land reforms, the PDA promised more funds for education, employment opportunities and assistance to students, farmers and labourers.

The PDA said all possible help would be given to the "valiant Kashmiris" in their "struggle for self-determination" against India. It also urged a rapid political solution to the Afghan war to enable the return of some three million Afghan refugees currently languishing in camps in Pakistan. The PDA pledged to pursue a non-aligned foreign policy and said relations with Islamic countries would be given special priority.

The rival IJI, presenting itself as "a united front of political and religious forces," vowed to make Pakistan an Islamic, democratic, welfare state. With strong fundamentalist support in this Sunni-dominated nation, the IJI pledged to stem the nation's "moral degradation" by enacting Islamic law. It also pledged to grant more power to local government.

While the PDA does not favor implementing Islamic Law, Ms. Ali, a co-author of the PDA manifesto, said that under the constitution, the PDA would introduce no laws contrary to the Koran. Ms. Ali said a PDA administration would push for equal rights for women and seek to allot them five per cent of government jobs. "Our programme is both revolutionary and pragmatic," she said.

For its part, the IJI said the economic rights of women would be fully protected and minimum wages would be gradually raised to 3,000 rupees (137 dollars) from the current 2,000 rupee-level. An IJI government would deregulate and privatise nationalised industries and financial institutions and would create one million new jobs over the next five years.

On foreign policy, the IJI also pledged to uphold the Kashmiris' right to self-determination and promised to support the Afghan mujahedeens' struggle to establish a sovereign Islamic state.

Islamabad Reports

BK1510170490 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 15 Oct 90

[Text] The People's Democratic Alliance [PDA] manifesto is based on five guiding principles: preservation of the security and integrity of the country, service to Islam, power to the people, welfare of the people, and devolution of authority. It was released in Islamabad today by a former federal minister of state, Begum Shanaz Wazir Ali. The manifesto commits the alliance to work for the creation of a just and equitable society free of (?want), hunger, exploitation, and that the real source of power is exercised by chosen representatives of the people.

It envisages a foreign policy which could reflect the national interests supreme [as heard]. All possible steps will be taken to help the people of Indian-held Kashmir to achieve their right to self-determination. The PDA manifesto has listed measures for solution of problems faced by labor, workers, government servants, students, lawyers, teachers, and business community. It has dealt with problems of women folk and minorities. The manifesto says rural courts will be set up to provide quick and cheap justice to the people.

'Election Cell' Set Up in Interior Ministry

BK1510150290 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 15 Oct p 1

[By Shakil Shaikh]

[Text] Islamabad, Oct. 14—The government has set up an "Election Cell" in the Interior Ministry to monitor law and order during the forthcoming elections for the National and Provincial. Assemblies, highly placed sources confirmed here Sunday. The purpose to establish this cell, a source in the Prime Minister's Secretariat said, was to gear up government efforts to hold polls in a peaceful condition.

The source told THE MUSLIM that similar cells had also been set up at the provincial level. The 'Central Election Cell' of the Ministry of Interior in the Federal Capital would be linked with all provincial capitals on "hot lines" and other advanced communication systems.

A top official of the Interior Ministry said 'Central Election Cell' would also be connected with several law-enforcing agencies, including the army. The official said that the setting up of the Cell was necessitated because of mounting tension in certain areas.

The functions of the Cell, according to the source, would be to monitor and order and take necessary measures to control any untoward situation. The Interior Ministry's Election Cell, would also be in close touch with the Chief Election Commissioner on the polling days. The Cell would also submit its report about latest law and order situation to President Ghulam Ishaq Khan.

Adviser Says Elections Will Proceed as Scheduled

BK1510164390 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 15 Oct 90

[Text] Kamal Azfar, the prime minister's special assistant, addressing a news conference in Islamabad today, said that there will be no change in the government's structure and elections will be held on schedule. He said that the election process is proceeding satisfactorily, adding that the process of accountability has nothing to do with it.

In reply to a question, he said that the political parties which supported the Pakistan People's Party [PPP] during the formation of the government in 1988 will not support it now. In reply to another question, he said that the former law minister [words indistinct] to pursue the cases against PPP workers and the amount was [words indistinct] from the government fund. He said that similarly, a huge amount was withdrawn from [words indistinct] fund and was spent on activities which had nothing to do with the objectives of the trust. The former government therefore misused the fund.

Beg Says Army Ready To Defend 'Motherland'

BK1410133890 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 14 Oct 90

[Text] The chief of the army staff General Mirza Aslam Beg has said Pakistan Army is fully geared to defend every inch of the motherland. He was addressing the regimental durbar [formal reception] of Northern Light Infantry Regiment at (Guljit) Center today. He praised the standard of training, preparedness, and morale of the regiment. The Army chief announced a number of benefits for the families of shuhda [martyrs] who laid down their lives for the defense of the country.

Minister Discusses Economic Crisis, U.S. Aid

BK1410022990 Hong Kong AFP in English 1834 GMT 13 Oct 90

[Text] Islamabad, Oct 13 (AFP)—Pakistan's economy is facing a "severe dilemma" due to the Gulf crisis, Local Government Minister Kamal Azfar said Saturday. Pakistan has suffered tremendously in terms of balance of payments, he said adding that out of 85,000 Pakistani nationals working in Kuwait, 80,000 have returned home since the tiny emirate was annexed by Iraq in August.

Another 35,000 Pakistanis were employed in Iraq before the Gulf crisis erupted. Mr. Azfar did not give figures of Pakistanis repatriated from Iraq. He said the government has spent nearly 20 million dollars on travel and immediate financial help to the returning families.

Pakistan will suffer a decline of 300 million dollars annually in foreign exchange remittances due to the Gulf crisis, while the oil price hike and ban on exports to Iraq will leave an annual impact between 1.5 and two billion dollars, he said. "The country's economy is facing a very severe dilemma," he said adding that the budgetary deficit next year was expected around one billion dollars.

He regretted a reported U.S. decision to suspend its economic and military assistance to Pakistan pending certification that Islamabad had slowed down its nuclear development programme. Stressing that the U.S. aid was important for the country's economy, he said Washington should consider it a regional issue. He said discussions were underway and "we are trying to convince Washington" that the people here oppose what he called a policy of discrimination.

Meanwhile, a Foreign Office spokesman described as baseless and malicious a WASHINGTON POST report that Pakistan had made clandestine attempts to acquire two high-temperature furnaces for use in the manufacture of nuclear weapons. There were elements and groups in the United States whose "obvious purpose" was to create and foster doubts and suspicions about Pakistan's peaceful nuclear programme, the spokesman said in a statement.

He said Pakistan had not been in touch with any U.S. company for the supply of such furnaces, and no such orders have been placed by any agency of the Government of Pakistan with foreign firms. Washington provided 580 million dollars in military and economic aid to Pakistan in fiscal 1989, and has earmarked 564 million dollars for 1991.

Foreign Minister Returns From New York Visit

BK1310101190 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 13 Oct 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan has said that the certification of the Pressler Amendment certification is now under review by the U.S. Administration and high-level discussions are underway to resolve the issue of restoring military and economic assistance to Pakistan. In a statement on his return from New York to Islamabad, he said that during his talks with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker he drew Mr. Baker's attention to the Pakistani proposal for making South Asia a nuclear-free zone.

The foreign minister added that during his stay in New York, he also met various world leaders and discussed with them bilateral and other matters. He said he discussed regional and international issues and matters of bilateral interest with the Soviet foreign minister.

Sahabzada Yaqub Khan remarked that he also met foreign ministers from Islamic and other countries on the situation in the region, particularly regarding Indian-held Kashmir. He informed them of the repressive Indian measures on Kashmiri Muslims and the massing of troops on the Pakistani border, which resulted in tense Pakistan-India relations. The foreign minister said that he also called on UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar and briefed him on the situations in Kashmir and Afghanistan.

Senators Respond to U.S. Senators' Remarks

BK1510162090 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 15 Oct 90

[Text] Forty-four members of the Senate have taken strong notice of the text of the letter allegedly written by some U.S. senators to President Bush in which they expressed their views on the election process in Pakistan. These remarks constitute a blatant interference in Pakistan's internal affairs. In a letter to President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, these senators said that reports published in the press relating to the letter by the U.S. senators are very serious and regrettable. They said that democracy in Pakistan means a government by the people of Pakistan for the people of Pakistan. They said the eligibility of election candidates will not be determined by the U.S. senators, but rather by the courts established in accordance with the constitution and law of Pakistan. They said that they are fully confident of the freedom and neutrality of the country's judicial system. They added that the American people also expect a high standard of politics and financial trustworthiness from their politicians. The senators asked why the U.S. senators adopt double standards regarding Third World countries. The senators said that they support the view that political leaders should have the freedom to run the election according to their choice, but no political leader should be above law and all leaders should respect the law.

The senators, while expressing their full confidence in the president, have expressed the hope that he will make a decision in keeping with the greater national interests. They hoped that the president will not only apprise the U.S. Administration of their grave concern but also apprise it of the categorical determination and resolve of the Pakistani people that they will not compromise on their political sovereignty and national dignity and will never tolerate any interference on matters which solely relate to the people of Pakistan.

The senators said that Pakistan and the United States have close historical friendship and they want to see this friendship further strengthened. But the friendship can be impaired if it is based on something other than the mutual respect of each other's sovereign status. The senators include Mohammad Ali Khan Hoti, Pir Saheb Pagara Sharif, Qazi Hussain Ahmad, Profesor Khurshid Ahmad, Syeed Qureshi, Syed Abbas Shah, M. Munir Afridi, Brigadier, Retired, Abdul Qayyum Khan, Haji Gulsher Khan, Ahmad Mian Soomro, and Lieutenant General, Retired, Syeed Qadir among others.

Bhutto To Seek Khan Resignation if Elected

BK1210004290 Hong Kong AFP in English 1828 GMT 11 Oct 90

[Text] Karachi, Oct 11 (AFP)—Deposed Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, claiming that her life was in danger, vowed to win back power in the upcoming elections. Addressing a rally in Lyari, the constituency where her husband is running in the October 24 elections, she said efforts might be made to "physically eliminate" her.

"We are not living in a civilised society these days, and anything can happen," she said. Her husband, Asif Ali Zardari was arrested Wednesday on criminal charges of abetting abduction for ransom of a London-based Pakistani businessman.

Ms. Bhutto said her husband was "innocent" and was implicated in a "false" case by the caretaker administration to pressure her family into quitting politics. Promising a fair deal to the poor and downtrodden, Ms. Bhutto renewed her attacks on President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and his caretaker Prime Minister Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi for ousting her on August 6 in a "constitutional coup."

Ms. Bhutto spoke to crowds at several points enroute to the Lyari public meeting. The people chanted "Bhutto Innocent, Zardari Innocent." The PPP will win the elections, she said adding she would seek the resignation of Mr. Ishaq Khan because he had "betrayed" the people.

Ms. Bhutto accused Mr. Jatoi and the provincial chief minister, Jam Sadiq Ali, of persecuting her supporters. She said the caretaker government was a "repressive regime" engaged in a "witch-hunt against the PPP leaders."

"All the intimidation and blackmail shall fail when we inflict a crushing defeat on the caretakers on October 24," she said.

Rival Accuses Bhutto of Asking U.S. To Cut Aid

BK1510003790 Hong Kong AFP in English 1808 GMT 14 Oct 90

[Text] Multan, Pakistan, Oct 14 (AFP)—A rival candidate for the post of prime minister accused Benazir Bhutto here Sunday of endangering the existence of Pakistan by lobbying the United States to cut off economic and military aid.

Nawaz Sharif, head of the Islamic Democratic Alliance, said that Ms. Bhutto had written to U.S. congressmen following her August 6 ouster asking for a halt of U.S. aid to Pakistan, which totals about 600 million dollars a year.

"She would never like Pakistan to exist if she was not allowed to remain in power," charged Mr. Sharif, 41, the former Punjab chief minister. Washington decided early this month to freeze its 1991 aid to Pakistan while awaiting clarifications from Islamabad on its nuclear program. To unfreeze the aid, U.S. President George Bush must be able to assure congress in writing that Pakistan is not trying to make a nuclear bomb.

FACTS INTERNATIONAL, a partisan weekly linked to Mr. Sharif, "recalled" this week that Ms. Bhutto, 37, was "installed in power after hectic campaigning by the Jewish lobby as well as the political pressure of various countries. So the lady had no other choice but to promote the interests of the foreign masters."

Washington has expressed hope that the elections scheduled here October 24 be free and fair, but U.S. diplomats here say the suspension of aid was not linked to the removal of Ms. Bhutto's government or the election campaign.

Sri Lanka

Government Deplores Killings in Jerusalem

BK1610120190 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Text] The government of Sri Lanka strongly condemns and deplores the massacre of Palestinians in East Jerusalem by the occupying Israeli armed forces. A communique issued by the Israeli Army [as heard] calls upon the Israeli Government to act with restraint. It also says the Israeli Government should stop the policy of repression carried out against the Palestinian people. According to the communique, the Sri Lanka Government appeals to the government of Israel to recognize the Palestine Liberation Organization as the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and to withdraw from all occupied Palestinian and Arab territories.

Former Agent Says Mosad Trained, Armed Rebels

BK1410083290 Hong Kong AFP in English 0810 GMT 14 Oct 90

[Text] Colombo, Oct 14 (AFP)—Israel's Mossad trained and supplied arms to Sri Lanka's Tamil Tiger rebels, a former agent of the Israeli intelligence agency alleged in an interview carried by a Colombo weekly Sunday. All transations with the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) were on a cash and carry basis, said Victor Ostrovsky in an interview published in the government-controlled SUNDAY OBSERVER.

Mr. Ostrovsky said the Tigers could have bought "almost everything they wanted." He said he did not know for sure if the training was continuing. Author of a book entitled "By Way Of Deception: The Making and Unmaking of a Mossad Officer," Mr. Ostrovsky is currently on an Israeli hit-list and is living in Canada, the OBSERVER said.

Mr. Ostrovsky was interviewed by the paper's New York correspondent but the report did not say where the interview took place. President Ranasinghe Premadasa has appointed a one-man commission to investigate allegations made in Mr. Ostrovsky's book that Mossad simultaneously trained both Sri Lankan security forces and LTTE rebels at the same base in Israel without each others' knowledge.

Mr. Ostrovsky, who claimed he was one of the Mossad officers in charge of training the Tamil guerrillas, said in the book that funds from the World Bank slated for Sri Lanka's Mahaweli Irrigation Project were instead diverted to buy Israeli weapons for Sri Lankan security forces. Sri Lanka ordered the closure of the Israeli interest section in Colombo in April in line with an election pledge made by Mr. Premadasa, who assumed office in January 1989.

Asked if the Tamil Tiger rebels were still undergoing training in Israel, Mr. Ostrovsky said in the OBSERVER interview: "I have no idea. If they have the money, there is no reason why not." Commenting on the simultaneous training allegedly given to government security forces and Tamil rebels by the Mossad, Mr. Ostrovsky said the joke doing the rounds was: "Why don't we take them to a field here and let them fight the war here? It will save a lot of civilians lives."

Mr. Ostrovsky said that at the time the trainers laughed about it. But later, he said: "You started thinking about it. Hey, wait a minute: This is wrong." The former agent said the Israelis had also trained the LTTE rebels on the use of landmines. "Where do you think they learnt it? The Israelis, of course," he told the weekly.

The LTTE has used landmines with devastating effect against the Sri Lanka security forces in fighting in the Northeast, and earlier against Indian troops sent to the region under a July 1987 pact between Colombo and New Delhi. He said the Tamil Tigers had purchased Israeli-made mines and mines seized by Israeli troops from Syria, Egypt and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

He said the mines had been doctored to appear to be made in the Soviet Union. Mr. Ostrovsky added that while the security forces purchased the weapons on

long-term contracts, the rebels paid in "hard cash." He could not say how many rebels were trained, explaining that senior rebel cadres had been taught how to set up their own training programs.

Prabhakaran Surfaces, Vows To Continue Struggle

BK1510094290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 15 Oct 90

[Text] In Sri Lanka, the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] leader, Mr. Velupillai Prabhakaran, has said the cadre is determined to continue its fight for a Tamil homeland despite government's offensive that has cost them both men and territory. In a statement read out at a recent rally at Vadamarachchi near Jaffna, he said bombs can destroy buildings but not moral power and courage. He said the LTTE is prepared for talks, but the government has first to recognize the Tamil rights of self-determination. Our Colombo correspondent, Karuppaswamy, reports that Mr. Prabhakaran has eluded the Sri Lankan troops for more than 10 years and is rarely seen in public.

Progovernment Tamil Party May Quit Parliament

BK1410131190 Hong Kong AFP in English 1247 GMT 14 Oct 90

[Text] Colombo, Oct 14 (AFP)—A Tamil party backing the Sri Lankan Government's fight against Tamil separatist guerrillas threatened Sunday to quit parliament over alleged harassment of its leaders by security forces. Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF) Secretary General K. Premachandran cited an incident Friday when his car was followed here by an army jeep, whose occupants "used foul language and displayed their arms in a threatening manner."

He also said a jeep belonging to another party MP [Member of Parliament], K. Kuganeswaran, was hijacked here Saturday and the MP's driver and bodyguard were abducted. "If these incidents are repeated and those abducted not released, we have no choice but to reconsider our decision to remain in parliament or partake in the All-Party Conference (APC)," Mr. Premachandran said.

The APC was convened by President Ranasinghe Premadasa as a forum to find solutions by consensus to the problems facing Sri Lanka. Mr. Premachandran said he had taken up the matter with the president and senior officials, but the abducted men were still missing.

"In view of the developments, we have sufficient reasons to suspect sections within the security forces of employing terror-tactics against us, as well as in engaging in acts of provocation. "Their motives are unclear, unless it is a concerted attempt at abandoning the search for a political solution even with those Tamil organisations who had laid down their arms," he said.

The EPRLF has five MPS in the 225-member parliament. It is a rival to the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), Sri Lanka's dominant Tamil separatist group fighting for a homeland in the country's Northeast. The EPRLF had at one point joined in the separatist campaign but later laid down it arms. The LTTE had engaged in peace negotiations with the government, but the process broke down in June with renewed heavy fighting.

Mr. Premachandran asked the government to reiterate its commitment for a peaceful solution to the current conflict and instruct the security forces to cease their attempts at undermining the political process. Meanwhile, LTTE guerrillas torched two buses belonging to the state-owned Sri Lanka Transport Board (SLTB) and a state-owned distillery in eastern Sri Lanka on Saturday, military officials here said.

Two suspects arrested by the security forces for involvement in burning the buses in Batticaloa Town committed suicide by swallowing cyanide capsules, a method adopted by LTTE rebels to avoid capture and torture. In the Kalladi area of Batticaloa, a group of seven armed rebels entered the warehouse of a government-owned distillery company and set fire to the office building and three vats. Losses were estimated at the equivalent of 26,875 dollars, the officials said.

They said in a third incident in Batticaloa District, a civilian was killed when he stepped on an anti-personnel mine planted by the rebels at Urani, and the security forces recovered 10 similar mines during search operations later. The rebels continued sporadic attacks on the army camps at Elephant Pass, Kankesanthurai and Mullaitivu in the North, but there were no casualties to the troops, the officials added.

Clashes Continue Between Armed Forces, LTTE

Communique Details Operation

BK1310125790 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 13 Oct 90

[Text] The security forces are conducting cordon and search operations to keep the lines of communications open, especially in the Eastern Province. The security forces ambushed LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists in several places. They are also assisting the home guards in the Eastern Province to provide security to innocent and unarmed civilians.

According to a Defense Ministry communique, the security forces conducted search operations in the Morawewa Jungle. They destroyed a temporary hideout of LTTE terrorists, comprising eight huts of varying sizes. A large quantity of medicines, rice, flour, sugar, 25 plastic cans with explosives, and over 2,000 antipersonnel mines were recovered. In the area of (Rogamvehera), northwest of Trincomalee, the security forces ambushed a group of LTTE terrorists, killed three of them, and recovered two (?T-58) rifles, a tractor, and trailer loaded with rice and other items of food.

The communique said that in the area of Vakaneri in the Batticaloa District, LTTE terrorists abducted a group of Muslim farmers traveling in two tractors to their respective fields. The security forces, who arrived at the scene, successfully overpowered the LTTE terrorists who fled, leaving the farmers in the two tractors. The Special Task Force conducting operations successfully repulsed attacks by small groups of LTTE terrorists in the Rufus Kulam and (Sagam) areas. The communique further stated that in the Northern Province, the Navy apprehended four LTTE terrorists, their fiberglass boat, and their weapons off the coast of Point Pedro. The Navy also apprehended a fishing craft off the sandbanks of Talaimannar with a load of 1,940 liters of diesel in containers. The four persons in the boat had stated that this load of diesel was being transported to the village of (Urumalai) near Talaimannar to be sold to the LTTE terrorists.

Military sources reported that the present mood of the large exodus of the innocent people from the Jaffna Peninsula is to escape from the repressive reign of terror of the LTTE terrorists there. Already, large numbers had managed to escape to areas south of Vavuniya. It is understood that even though the LTTE terrorists have ordered the cordoning off of all exit points from the Jaffna Peninsula, those who want to escape are making use of the sea routes to Mannar and Mullaitivu.

The Tigers have threatened more than 46,000 refugees in camps in Batticaloa. They have ordered them to go into the jungles, while another group was forcing them to remain in the refugee camps. The Eelam People's Democratic Party [EPDP] in a statement says that 300 refugees from the (Wantalamullai) camps have come to Colombo due to the threats of the Tigers. Several thousands more are awaiting to come to Colombo. The EPDP statement adds that the Tamil people have begun to hate the Tigers for being treated as slaves and human shields. They are now abandoning the places under Tigers' control. The statement adds that the refugees could only return to the areas without fear only if the Tigers are defeated and a democratic climate created.

Communique Updates Situation

BK1510142190 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1245 GMT 15 Oct 90

[Text] A major incident was reported by the security forces during the last 48 hours ending at 1200 today. Security forces patrolling the area of Kokkilai in the Eastern Province were ambushed by a group of LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists. In the ensuing exchange of fire, four soldiers died. The number of terrorist casualties is yet to be ascertained. A Defense Ministry communique says the LTTE terrorists directed mortar fire at the (Arutimalai) fishing village in the Mullaitivu District. This caused injury to four civilians. They have been evacuated to the Padawiya Hospital. The Special Task Force, while conducting operations in [words indistinct] Kalmunai, were attacked by a group of LTTE terrorists from the direction of the lagoon. After a brief encounter, the terrorists fled toward (Attabalam) area. More Special Task Force personnel were rushed to the scene. In the ensuing encounter, eight LTTE terrorists were killed. They were attempting to flee the area. Two others, believed to be civilians, were identified by the Citizens Committee of the area, but they were unable to identify the dead terrorists.

According to the communique, in Batticaloa, two SLTB [Sri Lanka Transport Board] buses were set on fire by LTTE terrorists. The security forces captured two of the terrorists who subsequently committed suicide by swallowing cyanide capsules. In the Arapattai area, the forces (?attacked) a group of terrorists. Two terrorists were killed. Their rifles, grenades, and equipment were recovered.

Rebels Attack Air Base

BK1610072590 Hong Kong AFP in English 0658 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Excerpt] Colombo, Oct 16 (AFP)—The Sri Lankan Government Tuesday re-imposed an indefinite curfew in the northern rebel stronghold of Jaffna, after a strategic Air Force base came under heavy attack from the guerrillas, officials said. Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) rebels Monday used mortars to pound the Palaly Air Base in the Jaffna Peninsula, a military spokesman here said, adding that continuous mortar fire injured four airmen.

An Air Force Chinese-built Y-12 transport plane narrowly missed being hit as it taxied for take-off from the base, the officials said, adding that the plane was involved in ferrying troops between Palaly and other air bases in the island. Palaly is the military's most important air base in the Tiger-controlled northern peninsula and has been subjected to frequent attacks since fighting between government troops and the rebels erupted on June 11.

The re-imposition of the curfew in the north, which was last lifted on October 1, was announced by the state-owned Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation. Sources said that Colombo's decision to re-introduce the curfew in Jaffna was a sign that military activity against the rebels, which was briefly scaled down after the September 26 evacuation of the Jaffna Fort, had resumed.

The LTTE in a statement received here from the group's London office late monday has alleged that the Air Force was continuing indiscriminate aerial bombing of the Jaffna Peninsula, an allegation rejected by military officials. Officials said that the curfew commencing from 6.00 a.m. (0030 GMT) also covered Karainagar and the islands of Kayts, Pungudutivu and Mandativu which lie off the peninsula. [passage omitted]

Festival Amnesty To Release 300 Prisoners

BK1610115090 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0635 GMT 16 Oct 90

["OANA/pool" Item]

[Text] Colombo, 16 Oct (LANKAPUVATH)—President Ranasinghe Premadasa has on the recommendation of Justice Minister A.C.S. Hameed, granted a general amnesty to mark Deepawali [Hindu festival] under which 300 prisoners will be released.

A justice ministry release said in terms of the amnesty, while all default sentences would be remitted, other convicted prisoners would be given a remission of three weeks for every year or part of a year spent in prison. The amnesty would also commute death sentences to life imprisonment, the release said and added that no relief would be given under the amnesty to those serving sentences for narcotics offences.

Parliament Passes Bill for Secret Bank Accounts

BK1310062690 Hong Kong AFP in English 0531 GMT 13 Oct 90

[Text] Colombo, Oct 13 (AFP)—The Sri Lankan Parliament has passed an amendment to the Banking Act that would allow foreigners and non-resident Sri Lankans to open secret bank accounts here. Officials said Saturday the legislation would enable non-nationals and non-resident Sri Lankans to operate foreign currency secret numbered accounts in commercial banks in the island.

The bill was supported only by MPs from the ruling United National Party, while opposition MPs were deeply critical. Presenting the bill in Parliament Friday, Finance Minister D.B. Wijetunge said the government wanted to stabilize the economy by adopting not only structural measures but also innovative methods.

He said the government wanted the secret number account system to function in Sri Lanka to augment the country's foreign exchange earnings and to discourage "unofficial foreign currency transactions." "It is necessary to take innovative steps of this nature to attract foreign currency to the country and in order to place Colombo on the world map of international financial centres," Mr. Wijetunge said.

Officials said the secret account, which may be held jointly, would provide for absolute anonymity regarding the identity of funds and the holder of the account. Funds could be held in current accounts, deposit accounts or even savings accounts, an official said, adding that the extending of credit facilities would not be permitted under the system.

Mr. Wijetunge said provisions were also being made to impose severe penalties on people who divulged information regarding the secret numbered accounts, except when assisting criminal investigations. Opposition MPs criticised the bill, saying it would open the doors to international racketeers.

"We see in this amendment an attempt to make this country a haven for international crooks and smugglers," Bandula Gunawardene, MP from the Sinhalese Nationalist Mahajana Eksath Peramuna, said. Dharmasiri Senanayake, MP from the main opposition Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) said his party opposed the bill because it was "unhealthy and ill-conceived."

"Why have numbered accounts? Was it to accomodate those who had made money through crooked and shady means?" said Athauda Seneviratne, MP from the left-wing United Socialist Alliance. SLFP MP Kingsley Wickramaratne said Switzerland was successful in operating secret numbered bank accounts mainly because of its location, surrounded by affluent countries and backed by a high level of trading.

"But on the other hand, we are located in the poorest segment of the world, and with a high degree of regional trading restrictions," Mr. Wickramaratne said. State Minister for Policy Planning Wimal Wickramasinghe said the government's main aim in introducing the numbered foreign currency account was to bring in foreign investment.

"Sri Lanka could benefit from the overheated economy of Singapore and the uncertain political future of Hong Kong and the spillover from those nations could be absorbed in this country," Mr. Wickramasinghe added.